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THURSDAY, MAY 26TH, 2011

St Hilary village turns out for big celebration!

The village of St Hilary was out in force for a recent big occasion. *(See page 5 for details).*

Dual Venue - Live Music
A great weekend of socialising . . .
The Boverton Castle
Friday, 27th May - 8pm
NEIL DIAMOND TRIBUTE
Sunday, 29th May - 8pm
THE SKEAR KROWS
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01446 678114

01446 795996
The Blacksmiths Arms
LLANMAES
Saturday, 28th May - 7pm
CHAMPIONS LEAGUE FINAL
Big Screen - Live Coverage
Serving infamous Big 'bad boy' Burgers and shared platters
Sunday, 29th May - 8pm
Premier Vale Gig - Rock/Heavy Metal Band
THE FUEL
www.blacksmithsarmsllanmaes.co.uk
Food served at both . . .
Monday - Thursday
12 noon - 3pm & 6pm - 9pm
Bank Holiday Monday (all day)
12 noon - 9pm

NEW MAYOR WANTS TO BE AN AMBASSADOR FOR COWBRIDGE

by PHILIP IRWIN

THE new Mayor of Cowbridge with Llanblethian, Coun Andy Banks, is looking forward to his year in office and aims to act as an ambassador for the town at every opportunity.

Coun Banks took office last week at the town's mayor making ceremony *(see pictures on page 4)* and his wife Gill will be the mayoress.

When he spoke to The GEM, he emphasised his pride in taking on the role, after five years on the town council, and after living in the town for 25 years.

A former firefighter, who was stationed in Cowbridge for 15 years, he started a consultancy in training and safety after he retired.

He said: "I see myself as an ambassador for the town locally and further afield. When I train in other areas, I point out the attributes of Cowbridge to the people I speak to."

He added that it gives him a chance to correct some misconceptions, the main one being that the town is made up of expensive shops and restaurants.

He said: "I tell them that Cowbridge has something for everyone."

He believes that the mayor can also work with the community to promote the different aspects of life in the town by highlighting the activities of the many societies that are active in the area.

Coun Banks explained that he first joined the council because he felt an obligation to put something back into the community.

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 4)

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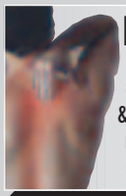
- Disc Problems



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Public holiday unnecessary?

WITH reference to the call for a public holiday on St David's Day, I am all in favour of celebrating this worthy anniversary, but I feel that children going to school dressed in their national costume, and taking part in traditional games for half a day, is far more beneficial for them.

To have a national holiday is unnecessary, taking into account the many other holidays that take place during the year.

Lesley Jeffery,
Dinas Powys

Thank you, Basil!

WITH reference to your excellent tribute in last week's GEM to Mr Basil Watkins and his involvement with the 'Best Kept Village competition,' we are sure there are many parishioners throughout the Vale who, like ourselves, would like to wish Basil a long and happy retirement.

There is no doubt that Basil's infectious enthusiasm and his ability to encourage others to participate in preserving ancient traditions, whilst at the same time helping to improve the physical appearance of many villages throughout the Vale, was paramount to its success.

We were delighted to see in your article the photographs featuring Church Row, Pendoylan and are pleased to confirm that local residents Lil and Cecil Matthews, along with others, are still very much involved in keeping this part of our village looking attractive to those who visit.

We sincerely hope that the organising committee of the 'BKV' competition can find someone with the dedication to foster community spirit in the villages throughout the Vale and that the D C Jones Challenge Cup, which has been the centrepiece of this competition, will continue to attract the support of communities throughout the Vale.

Lynn and Tony McCarthy,
Tre-Dodridge.

'Town should pay a tribute'

MAY I offer warmest congratulations to those good people who organised the highly successful literary festival in Cowbridge last week and may we hope that it is a first step toward a permanent fixture in the town's calendar.

Recent developments have enhanced Cowbridge as a creative venue for many worthwhile ideas – the Physic garden, the food festival, the farmers' market, church lighting and the reindeer parade for children, to name but a few, soon to be followed by completion of the restoration of the town walls and improvements to Old Hall gardens.

In these difficult economic times it is encouraging to find that people are prepared to give creatively of their time and energy to bring about such a raft of improvements, stimulated by the Physic Garden Trust, the Charter Trust and the Chamber of Trade.

Perhaps collectively there should be an annual celebration of these people who do so much to keep Cowbridge special – so come on, town council, think of a suitable tribute because Cowbridge today is vastly improved on its former self.

Lyn Richards,
Cowbridge

If you have a view on issues raised here, contact us at the address given at foot of page.

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THE COLUMN YOU WRITE

Readers' Letters

We reserve the right to edit all letters. We do NOT accept anonymous mail. Letters and emails MUST include full address and a contact telephone number. An email address alone is not sufficient. We will (in certain circumstances), protect a writer's identity, if requested. Please keep your letters BRIEF and address them to: The Editor, Glamorgan GEM Ltd, Graig House, 53 Eastgate, Cowbridge CF71 7EL.

ACCIDENTS MAINLY DOWN TO DRIVERS...

Council replies to safety fears on Docks link road

I WISH to respond to the letter featured in last week's edition of your paper, concerning the recent introduction of 'vehicle activated signs' on the Barry Docks link road.

Could I firstly reassure readers that the council is very aware of the number of fatal and serious collisions that have occurred over the years on the Barry Docks Link Road.

The council has initiated numerous actions over a long period to improve the safety of this route, including the following:

- Introduction in 2003 of a 'Prohibition of U-turn Order' for northbound traffic joining the Barry Docks Link Road at the Coldbrook Road East junction;
- Junction and accident analysis by an independent consultant in 2005 which recommended a number of short, medium and long term measures. The short and medium term measures were implemented between 2005 and 2007 at a cost of £108k and included improved signage, road markings and surfacing and the introduction of a merge lane;
- The reduction in 2005 of the speed limit on the route from the national speed limit (60mph for this class of road) to 50mph;
- High-mast camera surveillance in July 2006 confirming the high number of illegal u-turn manoeuvres;
- Improvements to the alignment of the merge lane, road markings and coloured surfacing in 2009;
- Speed surveys undertaken by the Safety Camera Partnership in 2010 to determine whether the site met the criteria for either a permanent safety camera, or the location for a mobile camera. Neither criterion was met;
- Speed surveys undertaken by the Council in 2010 which confirmed the findings of the Safety Camera Partnership that speed was not a significant concern at this location;
- Detailed study by an independent consultant in 2010 of possible traffic signal and roundabout options as a long term solution;
- Further study by an independent consultant in 2011 to identify the favoured solution with cost estimate for a future capital bid to the Welsh Government or the South East Wales Transport Alliance in due course.
- Introduction in 2011 of vehicle activated signs advising drivers of their speed and of their approach to a staggered junction at a cost of £32k.

It should be noted that, from the various investigations undertaken by the council into the collisions on this road, the causation factors have mainly been related to inappropriate driver behaviour, in particular illegal U-turns, rather than speed.

It is however accepted that a general reduction in vehicle speeds along this route, particularly in the vicinity of the Argae Lane and Coldbrook Road East junctions, could reduce future accident risk, hence the new 'vehicle activated signage', which has been introduced as a speed deterrent in the interim.

On March 16, the council's cabinet resolved that the traffic signal option, as determined by the independent consultant, be supported as the most appropriate long term scheme to take forward and that an application for funding be made to undertake the detailed design and construction phases of the scheme.

The cost estimate of the traffic signal option is currently £500k – but this does not include possible service diversion costs and other unknowns, which will need further investigation during the detailed design process.

Applications for this funding will be made this year. If successful, the continued requirement for the 'vehicle activated' signage will be considered on completion of the traffic signal scheme.

It is possible that this signage could be adapted for installation at other highway locations within the Vale, if it is not considered necessary in the future.

Miles Punter,
(Head of Visible Services, Vale of Glamorgan Council).

'Bring back the traffic wardens'

I WOULD like to comment on a letter from a resident in Newlands Street, Barry, regarding the parking permits and inconsiderate people who park in places marked for resident permit holders only.

I am getting totally fed up with people parking in bays marked for resident permit only. Even disabled people park there.

As the owner of a disabled badge myself, I know this is NOT allowed – disabled or not. I

It is getting difficult to park in our own street, due to people parking where they should not. Can they not read? There are plenty of signs saying where you cannot park.

Some people even park right opposite a sign saying 'residents only'. Tuesdays are even worse when the market is here. The council need to address this problem as I am fed up. I've got a severe bad back and a small child, and am sick of having to park halfway up the street because of these lazy people.

It does not help that at the bottom of the street there is a doctors' surgery and people who use this end up parking where they shouldn't. They even park in front of the alley gates!

I wish the council would bring back the traffic wardens, or that the police do something. What's the point in having parking permits? They are not worth the paper that they are printed on. I urge the public to please be more respectful to residents of the street and park where signs say that you can.

Name and address supplied

Barnardo's says 'THANK YOU'

ON behalf of Barnardo's Cymru I would like to congratulate all the people who took part in On Your Bike for Barnardo's Cycle Ride.

It was an exhilarating day along the roads of the Vale of Glamorgan and everyone was in good spirits. This is the 30th year that the bike ride has taken place and it is now firmly in the events calendar for cyclists in south Wales.

A big thank you to all of you, and our sponsors and partners and volunteers who helped make the day a success, and thank you for raising an incredible amount of money to transform children's lives.

Rachel Madge
(Event organiser, Barnardo's Cymru)

Good Samaritans

MAY I, through The GEM, offer my heartfelt thanks to the lady who was driving behind me up the High Street in Cowbridge on Sunday morning (and also to the gentleman who joined her) when I fell off my bicycle.

Their concern and practical help – the lady willingly donated a beautiful handkerchief to stem my wounds – was greatly appreciated.

I would like these kind Samaritans to know that I am recovering well.

I am just so glad I was wearing a cycle helmet – had I not, the story might have had a different ending!

Alun Armstrong,
Cowbridge

'Dogs' mess is everyone's problem...'

I REFER to the reader's letter entitled '*Dog mess is dangerous*' published on May 5 in the letters page of The Glamorgan GEM.

While I fully share the concerns raised over the anti-social and health impact that results from the crime of dog walkers failing to clean up after their animals, it's very difficult to catch those guilty of the offence without the resources to monitor every street and open space throughout the Vale of Glamorgan.

Thankfully, surveys by Keep Wales Tidy show that dog fouling is a reducing problem in the Vale.

This shows that even with the limited resources available to us we are doing something right; whether fining dog walkers for committing the crime, or educating our residents and visitors on the subject.

Obviously, more needs to be done to eliminate the concerns of your reader – but this is a matter for all of us – as they say: 'if you tolerate this, then your children will be next'.

Our enforcement staff will continue to do everything they can to educate dog walkers on cleaning up their dog's mess and disposing of it legally, and will prosecute them where they do not act socially and legally in looking after their dogs.

To assist them, I would ask any resident who has witnessed this crime to contact our enforcement officers by calling 01446 700111.

All information will be treated in the strictest confidence, but will allow our officers to target areas of significant dog fouling.

Unfortunately, this offence is one that will only be eliminated if we all stand up and say that it is unacceptable.

It is not somebody else's problem, it is ours, and we will not allow it to happen.

Clifford Parish,
(Operational Manager Waste Management and Cleansing
(*Rheolwr Gwaith Rheoli Gwastraff a Glanhau*).

It's not only dogs who leave a mess!

WHILE out walking my dog with a friend early one Saturday evening recently, we entered the Buttrills playing field, Barry, only to find guess what? – No dog mess but empty cans, bottles and blood-stained bandages.

We assume this mess was left behind by grown men playing their football matches early that afternoon.

People of Barry are quick to complain about dog mess left behind and not picked up by irresponsible dog owners, but what about this mess?

I would like to point out that I am one of the responsible dog owners who pick up after their pets.

My friend and I were disgusted to see this mess left behind by footballers.

We would like to say – come on you football lads of Barry – think of other people who also use this field and take your empty cans and bottles home with you.

(Name and address supplied)

HIGH TIDE TIMES

(UNTIL JUNE 2)

The high tides listed in this week's GEM are those in Porthcawl. It should be remembered that along the coast, high tide times will vary. For instance, in Barry, the high point will be 20 – 25 minutes later.

DATE	Time AM	Ht M	Time PM	Ht M
26 Thur	02.34	7.6	15.11	7.5
27 Fri	03.48	7.7	16.24	7.7
28 Sat	04.52	7.8	17.22	8.0
29 Sun	05.43	8.1	18.11	8.2
30 Mon	06.31	8.4	18.49	8.5
31 Tues	07.11	8.6	19.26	8.8
01 Wed	07.51	8.9	20.11	9.1
02 Thur	08.29	9.2	20.39	9.3

While The GEM makes every effort to check the accuracy of tide tables, we recommend that anyone putting out to sea, or walking in an area where they could be cut off, should always check with a tide table specific to their location.

E-Mail Contacts: *gemeditorial@tindlenews.co.uk* • *gemsales@tindlenews.co.uk* • Tel 01446 774484
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Founder members celebrate the 40th anniversary of choir

Left to right: Meic Edwards, Glyn Jones, Keith Brown, Gwyn Jones and Bob Whitaker.

COWBRIDGE Male Voice Choir has just completed the celebrations for its 40th anniversary year.

Five founder members are still active choristers. The picture (above) shows Meic Edwards, Glyn Jones, Keith Brown, Gwyn Jones and Bob Whitaker.

Over these 40 years, the choir has grown to its present active strength of some 65 members.

There have been many highlights, including 15 overseas tours to countries such as the USA, Canada, Hungary, the Czech Republic, Malta and Cyprus.

In turn, the choir has entertained choirs from such far flung locations as New Zealand, Russia, Iceland, Hungary, the USA and Canada.

The choir now enjoys a formidable reputation throughout the UK and in many places in Europe and the USA.

The honorary president is Iona Jones, the well-known Welsh soprano; the musical director is Shelley Thomas-Brown who has led the choir for its 25 years, while the accompanist, Sandra Williams, has been associated with the choir since its earliest days – both wonderful records of enthusiasm and dedication.

The choir is currently running a recruitment drive. New members need to have an enthusiasm for choral music but the ability to read music is not essential, as professional direction is given.

New recruits to the bottom bass and top tenor sections would be especially welcome.

The choir has just given its 41st annual Concert in Cowbridge Leisure Centre which was extremely well received by the large audience. Members are now looking forward to another exciting year and to their next annual concert in May 2012.

BW

Resolutions make for thirsty work!

BONT FAEN WI NEWS

THE social event in May was a tour around Fonmon Castle followed by excellent refreshments and we learnt a great deal about the history of Fonmon Castle and admired the lovely building and its contents.

The monthly meeting of Bont Faen WI took place on Thursday, May 19 in Lesser Hall. May is the month when all WIs discuss resolutions put forward by members who ask for the support of all WIs to challenge local authorities and government.

This year we were asked to vote on two resolutions concerning closure of libraries and mega farms. Energetic discussion took place on both resolutions, with the wording of the resolutions also being discussed.

A vote was taken on each resolution which our Link delegate will take to the annual meeting in Liverpool. Following this we were able to partake of excellent refreshments in the form of cheese/pate, delicious chutney and 'chunky' bread, washed down by wine and soft drinks!

Thanks go to Deirdre Murphy and Jean Lloyd for organising this.

Members brought plants to sell (proceeds to WI funds) and also looked through the photo albums which provided reminiscences and laughter over hair styles!

June will see us walking around Cowbridge, finishing at a local hostelry. The talk in June is on Clarice Cliff and members are looking forward to the annual mystery trip in July.

JJ

COMMUNITY NEWS

TREOES, LLANGAN & ST MARY HILL

Your local correspondent is Nancy Davidge, "Tynewydd", Llangan. (01656) 860303

Llanfest

THIS year's Llangan-St Mary Hill fair will take place on the green at Fferm Goch on Saturday, June 11, between 2pm – 9pm.

There will be games and slides, stalls, music and a host of other popular attractions.

For the benefit of the residents of Fferm Goch and visitors, a new path has been carried out at Fferm Goch over the past few months for the improvement of the underground pipes. All we can wish for is for the sun to shine, to make the event as successful as 2010!

Vestry meetings

THE fortnightly meetings which take place in Saron Chapel vestry are proving to be really entertaining.

Members who live in the village of Treoes have only a short walk to the vestry with no need to drive. Meetings are held on the second Wednesday of the month at 7pm.

Chapel service

THE attendance at the Saron Chapel service held on Sunday, May 22 was disappointing with only nine villagers present.

Mrs Iris Groom conducted the service, and a poem was read by Miss Lorraine West.

Llangan School centenary celebrations

READERS of The GEM would have read of the forthcoming Llangan School centenary celebrations which will take place in July.

If any readers who attended the school in the early years could write to me with their memories, this will be of interest to the children and staff.

WE ARE ON TWITTER! Find us @gemnews

Jamie Owen interviewed Alastair Campbell about his published diaries.

'Authors made us laugh, cry and think' – FESTIVAL'S SUCCESS

THE first Cowbridge Book Festival has proved a huge success with hundreds of people attending talks by authors on a variety of topics.

One of the organisers, Stella Cheesman, said: "Last week, 28 authors visited the Cowbridge Book Festival and what a wonderful selection of events they put on, covering every genre from historical to autobiographical, crime, travel, humour and nature – they made us laugh, they made us cry, but most of all they made us think.

"From John Hartson's moving account of his recovery from cancer to the frank, illuminating and intriguing discussion between Alastair Campbell and Jamie Owen, concluding on Sunday with a sincere and amusing talk by actor and screenwriter Boyd Clack, it really was a splendid festival.

"For the hundreds that attended – and many became regulars – it was a ball."

Organisers hope this will be the first in a tradition of book festivals in the town, and were delighted with the positive response of authors.

Money raised during the festival will go to the charity Leukaemia and Lymphoma Research. the organisers hope to announce how much was raised next week.

NEWS UPDATE FROM SCHOOL'S MOSES PROJECT

The pupils of Ysgol Iolo Morganwg were joined by Alun Cairns MP as they ran their weekly leg of a 10K sponsored run.

Mr Cairns ran side by side with the children as part of the latest campaign to raise money for a wind turbine/solar alternative energy source for the Masaai School in Endonyiosodai, Kenya.

An electricity supply would enhance the Kenyan children's education by providing lighting and facilities to cook food for the pupils.

The pupils of Ysgol Iolo Morganwg have developed close links with Masaai School over the last year. Their fund raising activities have included coffee mornings as well as the sponsored 10k run.

Steffan James ran the Barcelona Marathon before Easter and raised more than £150 for the charity.

The May Clwb200 was won by M Brown; second, N Roberts; third, J Morgan.

For more information about the Moses project based in Cowbridge or to join the 200Club, contact www.themosesproject.org.uk.

Newyddion diweddaraf y Prosiect Moses

YMUNODD disgyblion Ysgol Iolo Morganwg gan Alun Cairns AS tra oedden nhw'n cwblhau eu cam wythnosol fel rhan y Rhedeg Noddedig 10k.

Rhedodd Mr Cairns ochr yn ochr â phlant yr ysgol fel rhan yr ymgyrch i godi arian er mwyn i ddarparu tyrbin gwynt / ffynhonnell ynni amgen solar ar gyfer yr Ysgol Masaai yn Endonyiosodai, Kenya.

Byddai cyflenwad trydan yn gwella addysg y plant Kenya gan ddarparu golau a modd o goginio i'r disgyblion. Mae disgyblion ysgol Iolo Morganwg wedi datblygu cysylltiadau agos a'r Ysgol Masaai eleni.

Cynhaliwyd gan y disgyblion digwyddiadau megis boreau coffi a Rhedeg Noddedig 10k er mwyn i godi arian ar gyfer y Prosiect Moses.

Rhedodd y Marathon Barcelona gan Steffan James cyn y Pasg ar ran y Prosiect Moses a chododd dros £150 ganddo. Enillodd y Clwb200 Mis mai gan M Brown; 2il N Roberts; 3ydd J Morgan.

Os oes gennych ddiddordeb yn y Prosiect Moses y selir yn y Bontfaen neu ymuno â'r Clwb 200 dewch at wefan y prosiect www.themosesproject.org.uk.

Waitrose plans are submitted

THE formal planning proposal for a Waitrose store in Cowbridge has been put to the Vale Council's planning department.

In the latest list of proposals published by the council is one from R S Bird Ltd and Waitrose Ltd for Bird's Lane, Cowbridge seeking: "Demolition of redundant garden centre buildings and erection of food store building (approximately 2,074m^2 gross external area) and non food retail building (approximately 661m^2 gross external area) and service yard together with 138 car parking spaces, re-routed public footpath and landscaping."

The plans could be examined by councillors as early as late summer.

Llanblethian gardens open for charities

THE opening of Llanblethian gardens under the National Garden Scheme last year, raised more than £1,100 for RHS charities.

The gardeners are hoping to top that this year by opening on Sunday, May 29, to capture the gardens at their spring best. The gardens will be open from 2pm-6 pm at £3.50 for both gardens.

Popular band Thingumijigs will be playing and there will be tea and homemade cakes in the village hall.

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COWBRIDGE'S NEW MAYOR TAKES OVER ON A NIGHT OF STYLE AND CEREMONY!

THE Cowbridge with Llanblethian Town Council always observes its significant occasions with a touch more pomp and ceremony than most other councils.

The mace bearers were on duty, the councillors' ceremonial robes were donned, and a number of dignatories attended to see Coun Andy Banks take his place as the new Town Mayor, with his wife Gill alongside him as Mayoress.

His deputy will be Coun Nicola Thomas, and her consort will be Coun Andrea Burges.

Photographs by
MIKE WILCOCK

RIGHT:
The Mayor and his Deputy Mayor.

BELOW:
A number of Coun Banks' relatives made the trip from the midlands for the occasion.

BELOW:
The Mayor and Mayoress with Gill Banks' parents, Jean and Jack Fawcett.

New mayor plans his year

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

He said: "So many people go around saying something must be done about this or that, without doing anything.

"I joined the town council to find a way of making a contribution.

"I think that if you like living in a place, there is an obligation to put something back."

Coun Banks started his working life as a firefighter in the Birmingham area in 1975, and hence had the wide-ranging experience of doing that job in a big city.

The experience of 30 years in a profession where your life is at risk if you fail to assess the potential dangers have left him very well qualified to run his consultancy.

He is also a firm believer in the changes that have occurred in the fire service.

He said: "There was a time when firefighters just had to be tall enough and strong enough.

"Now we reflect society much more accurately, with more women and ethnic groups in the service.

"When people query whether people are now getting accepted who are not physically strong enough, I always say that I would rather have someone working alongside me who is smart enough to make the right decisions, rather than simply strong enough to pull me out after a mistake has been made."

He added that women firefighters, for instance, were able to do some jobs better. He recalled: "We had an incident some years ago when a people carrier overturned and the children trapped inside were very distressed.

"The woman firefighter with us was small enough to get inside, calm them and help them to safety."

He has seen the fire service change from an organisation that expected its members to cope with the after-effects of horrific scenes, by keeping a stiff upper lip, to one that routinely makes counselling available after distressing events – a change he approves of.

Coun Banks met his wife Gill while serving in Cowbridge, and they married in 1998. Their wedding in Hawaii turned out to be quite a high profile event.

He explained: "Two friends were journalists on a women's magazine, and our wedding was given a two-page splash in Woman's Weekly, which was the top selling magazine at the time.

"It was quite a shock to go to the paper shop and see people looking at our wedding photos."

Coun Banks has been the town council's representative on the Cowbridge Chamber of Trade, and believes that the council needs to do all it can to protect the economic life of the town.

He said that a big issue is parking, and hopes the town council will continue to argue the case for as much free parking in the town as possible.

He is also a supporter of the proposed Waitrose store, and believes that it will increase footfall in the town.

He said: "I will be continuing the tradition of holding a mayor's charity coffee morning on the first Saturday of each month in the Mayor's chambers. My first will be on June 4.

"The charities that will benefit from my year in offfice will be the Wales Air Ambulance and the Marie Curie hospice in Penarth."

The new mayor has one other personal project in mind. A defibrillator has been installed in the Spar store in the High Street, and he is offering to train local people for free to use it. Sessions are planned for the summer.

He emphasised: "In the event of a heart attack, the chances of survival go from four per cent without a defibrillator to 80 per cent if one is used!

"I hope that local people will come forward and learn how to save a life."

James (10) hopes to turn up Trumps in UK tournament

JAMES MORRIS, Y Bont Faen primary school's eisteddfod Bard, has just won a place in the UK final of Top Trumps, to be held in the London Science Museum over the Bank Holiday weekend.

James Morris has his eyes on a 'Green' trophy...

James is now away on a residential outdoor pursuit course with the school this week at Dolygaer in the Brecon Beacons, with plenty of time to hone his skills!

When he returns on Friday, he will be travelling straight to London to stay before the big event!

He entered the competition online with British Gas ECO initiative, Generation Green, in conjunction with the Top Trumps company.

The online Top Trumps game is all about being green and understanding how what humans do affects the planet for better or for worse.

More than 100,000 UK pupils competed in the heats, sponsored by Generation Green, and the final sees regional champions from the Isle of Skye to Swansea , Newcastle to Newquay.

If James (10) wins he will not only lift the winning trophy but also win £1,000 for his school, as well as an all-expenses paid educational school trip for him and his classmates.

"Our congratulations to James," said Fiona Hortopp, marketing manager at the game's makers, Winning Moves UK.

"He has done fantastically well to get to the grand final from so many entrants. We wish him all the very best in London."

Bridge results

VALE of Glamorgan Bridge Club (Monday, May 16):

First, Kevin Maddox and Mike Best, 77.65 per cent; second, Terry Reilly and John Evans, 62.5; third, David and Marion Stephenson, 59.03; fourth, Sue Norris and Su Summerhayes 57.95; fifth, Marjorie Morris and Bill Turner 54.92; sixth, Vida Halford and Glyn Williams 53.13.

Cowbridge and District Bridge Club (Tuesday, May 17):

First, Sue and Graham Norris, 63.50 per cent; second, Mearl Owen and Debbie Rosevear, 62.78; third, Pat and Brian Swain, 59.50; fourth, Judy Springett and Ann Miller, 59.44; fifth, Pauline McAllen and Mary Wallis, 50.00; ssixth, Glenda Roberts and Amy Owen, 48.13.

DW

Local teenager wins a place at Rambert school

by TIM CHAPMAN

A Cowbridge teenager has won a place at one of the country's most prestigious ballet schools.

Marla Ellis (16) competed against hundreds of applicants from all over the world to win the opportunity to study for a BA Hons degree in ballet and contemporary dance at the Rambert ballet school.

Her mother Helen told The GEM: "She felt very honoured to win a place.

"Luckily for us, as the course is degree level, Marla is able to apply for a student loan, which has just been granted.

"We were very worried when Marla had to leave vocational school due to funding issues.

"It is extremely difficult to maintain the level of training needed to gain a pre-professional course and this would not have been possible without the terrific amount of enthusiasm and standard of teaching given by Moya Vahey, who has never lost faith in Marla's ability to perform.

"Marla has also been very fortunate to win a scholarship to study at the Legat Foundations Summer school in Croatia for three weeks in July which means that her fitness levels will be high – ready for the gruelling training regime at Rambert."

Marie Rambert founded the London-based Rambert school in 1920, and it remains one of the world's premier professional dance schools for training and choreographic invention. Ballet and contemporary dance are treated as equal studies.

Three years ago, The GEM told the story of how Marla's parents Helen and Mark had managed to raise £25,000 in tuition fees to send Marla to the Arts Educational School in Tring.

Helen sold her vintage VW camper van and the people of Cowbridge supported the Ellis family with a fundraiser at the Duke of Wellington.

LEFT: *Marla Ellis preparing to dance at Sadler's Wells three years ago – now she is off to the Rambert School.*

News from St David's Church in Wales Primary School

Taff Trail cyclists pedal through rain (and punctures) for charity

These hardy cyclists refused to be deterred by a little drop of rain on their epic ride for charity!

A group of parents and friends of St. David's C/W Primary School recently set off from Brecon to complete the Taff Trail cycle route from Brecon to Cardiff, in order to raise funds for the 'Help for Heroes' charity.

The event was organised by Mrs Lucy Higgins to add to her fundraising target of a minimum of £2,500. Lucy and a friend, Carrie Williams, will be cycling 350 miles with the 'Help for Heroes' charity in June this year, alongside wounded servicemen from the Army rehabilitation unit Headley Court.

Lucy said: "The day was filled with variable weather condition,s with the hardy participants soaked before they had even started off from Brecon! The route was broken up with a number of refreshment stops, including one at the Red Cow public house in Pontsticill where the landlord – a supporter of 'Help for Heroes' served free tea, coffee and soft drinks to all.

"A gentleman from the pub, heard we were cycling for 'Help for Heroes' and donated his grandfather's WW1 medals to be sold to generate some funds towards the charity! What a wonderful gesture!

"Surviving five punctures and numerous downpours, the group arrived wet, muddy but in sunshine at Cardiff Bay to a cheering welcome from family and friends. A great day out was had by all!" Lucy added.

If you would like to support 'Help for Heroes' by donating to Lucy's charity cycle event in June please google 'Bmy Charity' and look for Lucy Higgins on the homepage.

All pull together at St Hilary!

What a day that was, what a day as village celebrates

ST HILARY'S 'royal wedding extravaganza' was voted a marvellous day, with plenty of community spirit, banter and activities.

There were loads of people involved with activities such as stalls, singing, music, promises, photographs, cakes, quizzes, bidders, teas, fancy dress, yurts, face painting, food and drinking!

A spokesman said: "On behalf of everybody, we thank everybody for their involvement and participation!

"It was a team effort which involved at least 100 individuals so there are too many to name individually.

"However, a special mention must be made of, firstly, Liz and Andy for providing the spark and energy as well as the staff of The Bush for all their hard work during the day." ***TD***

COMMUNITY NEWS
ST BRIDES MAJOR

Your local correspondent is Patricia Bevan-Morgan (01656) 880418

FRIENDS of the Heritage Coast recently met at the Heritage Centre, Dunraven Bay, Southerndown for their annual general meeting, which was well attended.

Retiring chairman, Howard Lewis, was given a vote of thanks for his work over the past few years and the new chairman for the forthcoming year was elected – Brian Acot from St Athan.

The vice-chair will be appointed from the Llantwit Major Town Council. The secretary ,treasurer and committee are to remain the same and were thanked for their work over the years.

It was agreed to drop the annual A-Z raffle but to replace it with a get-together later in the year.

It was resolved to write to the Dunraven family on the recent death of the Earl of Dunraven, president of the Friends of the Heritage Coast.

The meeting concluded with a film by Ranger Paul Dunn, showing some of the work carried out by the Rangers along the coast.

THE annual general meeting of the Community Council took place at All Saints Church, Southerndown, when outgoing Coun Geoff Gaen gave a report and installed new chairman Coun Alan Morgan with the chain of office.

The vice-chair will be Coun A Wilson. Various committees were set up. All were commended for their work during a difficult year without a clerk.

Meetings will remain the same with an open meeting every second Monday of the month, with the exception of August at All Saints Church, Southerndown, at 7pm.

The next PACT meeting with take place on June 8 at 6pm at the Church Hall, St Brides Major.

LADIES Thursday Club held their annual general meeting at the school on May 12. This was a sad occasion as the club is closing after 64 years, with a luncheon at the end of July.

WISHING a speedy recovery to Eva Morgan of Blaen Dewi, Wick, who is in hospital after a recent fall at her home. All your friends hope you will be home soon.

WE ARE NOW ON TWITTER!
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VALE RESORT RETAINS TOP WALES AWARD

THE Vale Resort at Hensol has been awarded maximum points in an AA review – for the second year in a row.

The resort's rating remains at 85 per cent – the highest possible for a four-star hotel, against the average score of 76.7 per cent for four-star hotels.

The report describes the inspection at the £50million resort as "very positive" and highlights the strengths of the hotel as "clearly in service and hospitality received from a dedicated team", both of which were assessed as being of five-star standard.

Stephen Leeke, Managing Director of the Vale Resort, said: "We are all delighted with this latest industry accolade. To have retained the highest possible rating is an extremely proud moment for us once again. Our vision is to be recognised as one of the finest resorts and members' clubs in Europe, providing an excellent level of service, quality dining and helpful and professional staff– and, through doing that, ensuring that everyone who stays here, be it on business or leisure, has a fantastic experience."

The Resort's Vale Grill retains its AA Rosette under the guidance of Head Chef Daniel James. Of the food, the report stated that the "*food offer was very good with consistency throughout the courses. Dinner was the highlight*."

The Resort is home to a £4 million WRU National Centre of Excellence training facilities for the Welsh rugby team and also boasts training facilities for the Cardiff Blues, Cardiff City FC and the Welsh FA.

Celebrity guests to the Vale Resort include the Manchester United team, Matthew Rhys, Catherine Zeta Jones, Charlotte Church, Jamie Oliver, Westlife, Gerard Houllier and Arsene Wenger.

Stephen Leeke, managing director of The Vale Resort with Andrew Rees, hotel operations manager.

'Lafarge must consult on fuel plans' – Vale AM

"LAFARGE must consult local residents on its proposal to use two additional waste derived fuels (*solid recovered fuel and end of life tyres)* in its cement-making operation at Aberthaw," said Vale AM Jane Hutt this week.

"It is very important that Lafarge consults fully and widely with local residents on its fuel plans and I was glad to attend one of the recent information exhibitions arranged by Lafarge's Aberthaw Works team who were on hand in local community halls to answer any questions.

"Ultimately, the Environment Agency's consultation on the environmental permit application from Lafarge Cement UK will be a key part of the determination process.

"I would be pleased to hear views of local residents who attended the information exhibitions," the AM added.

Barry lecturers set for Ty Hafan cycle ride

THREE lecturers from Barry College are preparing to embark on a cycle ride from Land's End to John O'Groats to raise money forTy Hafan children's hospice at Sully.

Brickwork lecturers Chris Bridgeman, Darren Hill and Paul Glover will set out on the 957-mile journey on July 3.

The cycle trek will last for 10 days over the first two weeks of the summer holidays.

"Darren and Paul are keen cyclists and it seemed like a good challenge so I began cycling last year," Chris Bridgeman said. "It's one of those things you do once and once only!

"We've all done a lot of training," Paul Glover added. "Chris Bridgeman has just done a charity route for Barnardo's and cycles regularly at weekends and I'm doing the Dragon Route with Darren Hill which is 126 miles. We all cycle in to work as we're thinking about reducing our carbon footprint."

Darren Hill added: "It's a challenge we're all looking forward to, and we would like to thank the college for providing us with a bus for a support vehicle and brickwork lecturer Anthony Parry to drive it."

Chris Bridgeman has set up a JustGiving account for donations that can be found at: http://www.justgiving.com/Chris-Bridgeman.

(Left-right) Paul Glover, Darren Hill and Chris Bridgeman in their cycling finery.

St John Wales award winners

THREE St John Wales life-savers, including a Bridgend woman, were among those to receive awards approved by the Queen at a special investiture ceremony inLlandaff Cathedral recently.

The Duke of Gloucester, Grand Prior of the Order of St John, presented awards to more than 40 St John members after he officially installed the charity's new Prior, Dan Clayton-Jones OBE.

Hazel Cook, who helped save a man who had a cardiac arrest last year at the 2010 Royal Welsh Show, is a Dame of the Order.

Other lifesavers recognised at the ceremony included St John Wales volunteers Allen Jones, of Clydach, and Barbara Breeze, of Bridgend, promoted as Officers of the Order of St John.

They saved the life of heart attack victim Gerwyn Thomas at the Liberty Stadium, after they defibrillated him twice and administered CPR until the paramedics arrived.

Mr Thomas is now championing the charity's campaign for defibrillators to be readily available across Wales.

The charity's Commissioner for north Wales, Rev David Griffiths, was promoted as a Knight of the Order of St John and Lieutenant Colonel Rhodri Traherne, of St Nicholas, was promoted to Knight, having been instrumental in the organisation and execution of many investiture ceremonies and events throughout Wales.

The Order of St John was founded as a Christian charity in the 11th Century. Today it is a Royal Order of Chivalry, with the Queen as its sovereign head. It comprises two dynamic foundations – the first aid charity, St John Ambulance, and the St John of Jerusalem Eye Hospital.

Other winners

ADMISSION to Officer Brother/Sister: *Lt Col Caroline Whittaker, Vale of Glamorgan.*

Admission as a Member, Male and Female: *Ms Beverley Johnson, Bridgend and Mr Christopher Thomas, Bridgend.*

The Vale Volunteer Bureau
will be hosting
Appreci8 Volunteering Event
FREE interactive fun for all
Saturday 4th June 2011
11am - 3pm
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Facing up to fresh challenges for new Welsh Government

WITHIN days of being re-elected as the Bridgend Assembly member, Carwyn Jones was nominated, approved and appointed as the First Minister of the Welsh Government.

Having won 30 seats in an Assembly of 60 members, it was clear this would be a challenge (which the First Minister acknowledged) and he spoke about the need for the Government to reach out and engage openly and constructively to ensure we deliver on our policies and programmes for the people of Wales, with the support of the Assembly.

With the unopposed approval also, of Labour's Rosemary Butler AM as the Presiding Officer and the election of David Melding AM, the Conservative regional member for South Wales Central, as the Deputy Presiding Officer (after an election between William Graham and himself), the balance remains, with Labour as a minority Government for Wales.

We have been here before, as we won the same number of seats in 2003 and I played a key part as Minister for Assembly Business during the second half of that administration.

By the end of the first week, following the election, I was appointed by the First Minister to be the Finance Minister and Leader of the House, engaging me in crucial duties and responsibilities in a minority Government as I seek to secure the support of the Assembly in these difficult times of reducing budgets.

Alongside my financial responsibilities, I will be working to ensure that Government legislation passes through the Assembly with full and competent scrutiny, delivering on our legislative programme, soon to be announced by the First Minister.

This means working closely with colleagues in all political parties as well as my own group of 30 Labour Assembly Members.

Every week, I meet with the business managers of the three other political parties, to ensure we manage the Assembly effectively and fairly.

I also make a statement to the Assembly following First Minister's Questions every week, when I am asked to include debates and statements of interest to members and to follow them up with ministerial colleagues, replying to concerns or defending the status quo if and when appropriate.

So the hard work has quickly begun as we consider the challenges ahead in this five-year Assembly session – but they are challenges I relish, working with people I have known and respected across the political spectrum over the past 12 years.

ASSEMBLY NOTES

by Jane Hutt AM

(Minister for Finance and Leader of the House)

There are many areas of policy and manifesto commitments which strike accord across the political parties.

Securing fair funding for Wales from the UK Coalition Government is a top priority. This has featured in my first week of work with finance officials and will be taken forward with the leadership of the First Minister.

Alongside the challenging first days in the new Welsh Government, I have been following through a wide range of constituency commitments which have given me great enjoyment, as well as requiring swift action to take up the steady flow of casework and issues affecting my constituents.

The enjoyment has come from the many festivals being held across the Vale of Glamorgan, including the innovative Vale Walking Festival organised by Valeways.

The walk from Nash Point to Southerndown with the Heritage Coast wardens was memorable.

Attending the Dinas Powys Music Festival concert in St Andrews Major church was a great pleasure. The Vale Learning Festival held in libraries and community venues was also a great success last week as part of Adult Learners' Week culminating in the Intergenerational Day last Saturday at Barry Library and Art Central.

The inspiring new Cowbridge Book Festival is a great addition to the Vale Festival calendar, with funds raised for leukaemia research at the 'sell-out' event with Alistair Campbell and Jamie Owen which I thoroughly enjoyed.

So I am rising to the challenges of Government and constituency responsibilities and I am thankful that I have the opportunity to continue to serve in this way.

Local groups and charities share in Lottery cash boost

A LOTTERY grant of nearly £1 million (£982,637) has been awarded to enable Tenovus cancer charity to establish 15 new 'Sing for Life' choirs for cancer patients over 50 years old, their families, carers, friends and those who have been bereaved through the disease across Wales.

Other groups to benefit include the Alzheimer's Society which will use £1,945,018 to provide a befriending and advice service for sufferers living in isolated areas; Deafblind UK which receives £603,786 to help older people with sight and hearing loss access services and RNIB Cymru which will use £362,504 to support blind and partially-sighted older people.

The Bridgend Association of Voluntary Organisations (BAVO) will spend its Lottery award of £835,953 on a project to provide community cafes and one to one befriending for older people across Bridgend.

This will ask 'social involvers' to phone someone for a chat, providing support to attend appointments or visiting someone at home.

They will also promote the community cafes which will run for three hours a week from venues in the community. The project will develop two existing cafes and establish four more in Bridgend county.

Heidi Bennett, Director of BAVO, explained: "The community cafes and social involvers project will encourage older people to socialise, access information, and will generally support them, so that they ultimately feel they have a better quality of life and improved sense of wellbeing."

Mental Health Matters Wales Ltd in Bridgend receives £381,043 for a 'Moving On' befriending and mentoring project partnership with Mental Health Matters Wales Ltd and Bridgend People First, a learning disability organisation.

The project will support people aged 50 plus who are socially isolated due to mental health issues or learning disabilities, prioritising those who do not have family and friends in Bridgend county borough.

Vale Centre For Voluntary Services, Cardiff and the Vale of Glamorgan , was award £887,327 for its 'Friendly Advantage' project.

It offers a range of befriending models to reduce loneliness and isolation and improve wellbeing of older people in Cardiff and the Vale of Glamorgan.

Age Concern Cardiff and the Vale of Glamorgan has been awarded £962,396.

Its project will provide a regional advocacy service delivered in south east Wales by four Age Concern organisations developing their existing partnership.

Vale AM's surgery

THE Vale AM, Jane Hutt, will be holding a surgery on Saturday (May 28) at The Old School, Wine Street, Llantwit Major, from 10am to 12 noon. No appointment necessary.

For more information please contact the constituency office on 01446 740981.

From rhetoric to reality

IT was reassuring to read Coun James' letter in last week's GEM responding to the recent concerns expressed about the gypsy/traveller site.

Clearly it was a subject which will continue to require close scrutiny by those in the community likely to be affected.

I do, however, despair that the council, always after the event, makes a clarifying statement to take us all out of panic mode, to set the record straight, as Coun James described it.

Would it not be more sensible and certainly informative to us all to consider maybe a periodic announcement in the local press which would keep us all updated as to proposed plans in the pipeline, particularly those which may be deemed controversial.

Not everybody is au fait with the internet, so directing some to a three line web page link may not be the best way of ensuring open communication.

Lastly, having read the LDP, I note reference to the Community Involvement Scheme . This speaks of: *Creating the conditions for early involvement and feedback at a stage when people can recognise a chance to influence the plan; encouraging the commitment of all participants to an open and honest debate on realistic development alternatives in the search for a consensus; and recognising the need to adopt approaches for engaging the community, including business, which seeks the views of those not normally involved.*

I am hopeful that this isn't the usual rhetoric which one finds in most planning documents and it will be interesting to observe the real world measures adopted to ensure that this doesn't just remain aspirational.

Robert Taylor,
Barry.

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Town council wants to take control of land near cemetery

BARRY Town councillors have passed a motion calling on the Vale Council, as owners of land to the east of Cemetery Road, to begin discussions which they hope will lead to them taking responsibility for it.

At the Town Council's annual meeting on May 10, councillors considered a motion submitted by Couns Stuart Egan and Theo Stenstrom.

Councillors pointed out that the Town Council had previously indicated that it would be inappropriate for either of the open spaces bisected by Cemetery Road to be used for housing or other related purposes.

They also noted that if the site to the east of Cemetery Road was allocated within the Local Development Plan for future cemetery use, it would enable the council to continue to provide an essential service to the local community, as well as helping to maintain the ambience and serenity of the cemetery access road.

Councillors were reminded that the council had previously submitted outline proposals for maintaining the former allotment land located to the east of Cemetery Road for the benefit of the local community, in ways which would be compatible with the adjacent cemetery, thereby conserving the open space for the quiet enjoyment of future generations.

The Town Council unanimously approved Coun Egan and Councillor Stenstrom's motion, calling upon the Vale Council, as the owners of the land located to the east of Cemetery Road, to commence meaningful discussions as a matter of urgency concerning the site, so the Town Council could take responsibility for maintaining it.

Councillors understand this type of arrangement is possible via the provisions of the Unitary Council's Charter with Town and Community Councils within the Vale, as well as other arrangements which could be agreed between the two councils.

A Vale Council spokesman said: "We are considering a letter which has been received from Barry Town Council."

CALLING ALL CRICKET FANS!
Fancy going to watch England play Sri Lanka at Sophia Gardens this weekend? Then enter our competition on page 20!

Mixed results for Heritage Coast in Good Beach Guide

BEACHES along the Heritage Coast have, in the main, fared well in the latest edition of the Good Beach Guide, launched this week by the Marine Conservation Society (MCS).

Porthcawl will be pleased, as all three beaches tested, Rest Bay, Sandy Bay, and Trecco Bay have all retained the recommended status awarded the previous year.

Along the Heritage Coast, beaches that have retained their recommended status are at Cold Knap and Whitmore Bay.

The latter, of course, is now much more famous, courtesy of the TV series *Gavin and Stacey*.

Another recommended beach is at Southerndown, which has been upgraded from its status the previous year, where it gained a basis pass mark.

The beach at Fontygary has also been given recommended status.

However, some beaches in the Vale have slipped this year. Jackson's Bay has fallen from recommended to a basic pass, while Barry's Watch House Bay has dropped from a basic pass to a fail.

Ogmore Central and Llantwit Major have both stayed the same, recording a basic pass this year and last, while Ogmore West, which failed last year, has failed again this year.

A total of 92 Welsh beaches have been recommended as having excellent bathing water quality.

Out of the 154 beaches that were sampled, 11 beaches have failed. The report says:

"These beaches fail to meet even the basic standards set 35 years ago in European law.

"They present a potential health hazard for beachgoers, who may face unacceptable levels of bacteria and viruses in the sea water."

MCS says this is a real cause for concern.

The head of visible services at the Vale Council, Miles Punter, said: "On the whole, the water quality results for Vale beaches are encouraging.

"It is however, disappointing that, despite significant investment by Dwr Cymru / Welsh Water over a number of years, a few of our coastal areas have failed to reach a suitable standard.

"We will continue to work with Dwr Cymru / Welsh Water, Keep Wales Tidy and the Environment Agency to promote higher standards of water quality throughout the entire coastline of the Vale of Glamorgan."

Plans to use first batch of Barry regeneration cash

by PHILIP IRWIN

THE first £300,000 of the £9 million Barry regeneration cash is to be spent, in the main, on Vale Council officer time to project manage a number of schemes.

The details were revealed in a recent report to the Vale Council cabinet. It follows the March 2010 Assembly decision to designate Barry as a 'Regeneration Area' and grant £9 million to bring together partners and contribute to investment in the town.

The £300,000 has been earmarked for a series of projects:

• Barry Island Station's replacement footbridge will receive £100,000 to match fund application for funding from the Department for Transport's 'Access for All Mid-Tier Programme'.

The deadline for returning completed applications is May 27, with a decision expected by September 5, 2011.

• The Innovation Quarter will receive £40,000 to fund feasibility and outline design work to "develop the interface" between the land held by the Waterfront Consortium and Vale Council land at the Innovation Quarter.

• The Vale Heritage Centre will get £10,000 to fund the preparation of a feasibility report.

A number of other projects require officer time to project manage different schemes. These include:

• A total of £60,000 is required to project manage a number of major physical regeneration projects including, the Innovation Quarter, Barry Steam Railway Project, Central Station Park and Ride and Barry Island Action Plan.

• The Economic Development Unit needs £24,000 to "assist in the development, delivery and evaluation of physical regeneration projects and programmes associated with the Welsh Assembly Government Barry Regeneration Area programme".

• The Landscape Design Service is to use £35,000 to develop and deliver the public realm, public open space and public art elements of major physical regeneration projects including, Barry Town Centre, Innovation Quarter, Barry Island Action Plan and Castleland Renewal Area.

The report notes that £31,000 of the £300,000 remains unallocated, and this will be held in abeyance as a contingency.

Ash cloud disrupts flights

THE ash cloud released by the eruption of a volcano in Iceland led to the cancellation of some flights in and out of Cardiff Airport on Tuesday (May 24).

All but one concerned flights to Scotland. An Eastern Airlines flight to Aberdeen, due in at 6.15pm for a 6.40pm departure, failed to arrive.

Also, two Flybe flights, one to Glasgow and one to Edinburgh, were cancelled.

However, fears that the ash cloud might be spreading were exacerbated when the Flybe flight to Paris was also cancelled.

LOCAL SCHOOL TRANSPORT: *all change on the buses*

FOLLOWING discussions with the bus operator Veolia Transport Cymru, the Vale Council says it has arranged for school buses operated by Veolia to be re-allocated to other bus companies.

The only exception is Service S9 which runs from Barry to St Cyres School in Penarth, which will continue to be operated by Veolia until Friday, June 24.

Timetables and routes in the majority of cases remain the same although where practical there may be some amalgamation of services. Schools affected have been notified.

Coun Jeffery James, cabinet member for planning and transportation, said: "While the Vale Council had hoped that Veolia would have continued operating these school buses until June 24, recent reliability issues have left the council with no option other than to find alternative bus operators to fill the gap during difficult times.

"This is all the more important as pupils and schools have started the examination period. I am confident that the council has reacted quickly and efficiently to this problem with no resultant disruption to pupils."

Charity dog show

A CHARITY dog show will be held on June 18 at Bryncae Community Centre, Llanharan (judging 2pm).

It will raise money for Bridgend Deaf (Sports and Social Club), Bridgend. Classes for pedigree dogs and cross breeds and two especially for children.

Prizes, rosettes, raffle, refreshments. All friendly dogs and their people welcome.

Further details from dogshows4u@aol.com or 01443 225399.

Summer trip

LLANTWIT Major Horticultural Society is running a trip to Savill Gardens, Windsor, on Sunday, June 26.

The coach leaves from the car park behind Llantwit Rugby Club at 7.30am, £24 per person includes entry to garden. Everyone welcome.

Contact Elizabeth Rees on 01446 750387 for more information.

CASTLELAND

COMMUNITY volunteers at Barry drop-in centre have organised activities for half term.

On Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, 2pm until 4pm - there is a range of sports activities (football, rugby, cricket) at the multi-court area, Belvedere Crescent.

On Wednesday (10am until 2pm) - there is an open day and arts and crafts at Castleland Community Centre, plus information on DIC Theatre & Arts Group.

Tel: 01446 411111 or 01446 403549 for full details.

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VALE MP's VIEWPOINT

Heavy cost of MoD's failures at St Athan

The Defence Technical College proposed for St Athan made the news once again last week.

ITV Wales interviewed a senior manager from the former Metrix consortium, who was scathing about how the MoD handled the project over the last six years.

The manager, Lawrence Lewis, talked of 'endemic failures' in the MoD's culture, which led to delay after delay – meaning the project went billions over budget.

The plan was initially formed in 2005 and the delays amounted to more than three years. Based on the original start date, the college would have been up and running two years ago.

Mr Lewis stated that the MoD did not adapt to changing technology; that programmes aimed to last decades were taken by short-term management appointments.

All in all, his biting comments confirm some of the worries expressed to me when the Metrix plan was cancelled last year.

The Secretary of State for Defence, Dr Liam Fox says that he has had to get to grips with the department that was clearly mismanaged; the ultimate demonstration came when he showed that cancelling a contract for an aircraft carrier that hadn't been built would be more expensive than allowing it to go ahead!

Vale MP Alun Cairns reports to GEM readers

It is important to confirm, however, that the St Athan site remains in the running for Defence Technical Training. I have had several meetings with Liam Fox to lobby and champion the case for the RAF base.

He tells me that they are currently crunching the numbers to rationalise 11 training schools on nine different sites, currently under three commands, to confirm where best training can be conducted.

There was a plan to highlight the shortlist by March 31, which unfortunately wasn't possible.

I have asked for another meeting with the Secretary of State to clarify the date when the next formal announcement will be made.

I believe that the suitability of the site could mean savings to the MoD and enhanced training.

It is important to recognise that significant work has already been done and more is continuing. A large amount of technical training takes place at St Athan and I was delighted to open the new Headquarters Building ('Lancaster') at No 4 School of Technical Training on the site some weeks ago.

I also learnt about the level of training needed to produce specialist engineers of the highest calibre, and met the trainees who were working on the design and repairs of essential vehicles.

It was clear from the visit that there is significant activity on the site which is not necessarily recognised by the wider community.

My aim is to ensure that the activity grows.

Colcot school pupils get more sporty!

THE pupils at Colcot Primary School have enjoyed a very sporty week.

The school rugby team had a successful and enjoyable time at the 'Future Blues' rugby tournament. Staff and parents praised the team for their efforts on the field of play and also for their sportsmanship.

The children were thrilled with the opportunity to play at the Arms Park and to take part in an exciting tournament.

The summer schedule of after school clubs started this week with athletics, cricket and rounders on the menu for the junior children.

The clubs make use of the playing fields and offer a large number of children the opportunity to develop and improve their sporting skills.

The school will be offering another after school club next week following free taster sessions at school.

Rob Copeland will be taking karate sessions every Tuesday. This privately-run club will add to the opportunities available to the children.

Mike Fowler continues to run his successful after school football club at the school every Monday evening. Mike will also be working with the children during their forthcoming open morning on June 14.

Everyone is welcome at the open morning between 9.30am and 11.30am to see the variety of different opportunities available at the school.

Jury set to consider the verdict in murder trial

REPORT by AJ SICLUNA

AS The GEM went to press yesterday (Wednesday) the jury at Cardiff Crown Court trying a Penarth mother, who is accused of murdering her 11-year-old autistic son by strangling him with a belt, were due to retire to consider their verdict.

Yvonne Freaney, 49, has denied the charge of murder but admitted manslaughter on the grounds of diminished responsibility.

The prosecution did not accept this plea.

The trial began on May 9 and Freaney herself was not called to give evidence.

Police found Freaney and her son's body in the Sky Plaza Hotel, Rhoose, one year ago.

She told them "I killed him about 36 hours ago. I strangled him. I used my belt over there by the bed."

She said he was severely autistic but would now be happy in heaven.

Freaney was described by prosecutor Gregg Taylor QC as a devoted mother.

Freaney, the jury was also told, had endured a lengthy history of domestic abuse and self harm and lived in "dirty and cluttered" conditions.

Mr Taylor claimed that the prosecution contention was that "this is a straightforward case of murder, and that will be the correct verdict.."

COMMONS MOVE

THE Vale MP, Alun Cairns, has been elected by his colleagues to the Commons Public Administration Select Committee, which is responsible for considering the quality and standards of administration in the Civil Service and scrutinises the reports of the Parliamentary and Health Service Ombudsman.

Mr Cairns was previously a member of the Welsh Affairs Select Committee.

He commented: "I am sorry to have left the Welsh Affairs Committee and although the Administration Select Committee mandate is broader, it is equally important to the Vale and to Wales."

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Report points to 'shocking' figures

DRINK BLAMED FOR RISE IN CRIMES OF VIOLENCE IN VALE

by PHILIP IRWIN

A shock report links alcohol to a 13.6 per cent rise in violent crime in the Vale – and it also reveals an alarming 46.2 per cent rise in serious sexual offences.

The report was presented to the Vale Council yesterday (Wednesday) by the office of the director of legal, public protection and housing services.

On serious violence, it says that the target was a 5 per cent reduction, but in fact there was a 13.6 per cent increase.

The report lays the blame for this increase squarely on drinking.

It says: "*A large number of alcohol-related incidents have occurred. There still seems to be a strong link between alcohol consumption and our most serious incidents of violence.*"

It says that the Safer Vale Partnership recently commissioned Vibe experience to conduct a survey to establish youth attitudes towards drugs, including alcohol.

This information, says the report, along with information from a recent Safer Vale survey will help the Partnership target resources and services to tackle alcohol -related crime, especially alcohol-related violence.

The second missed target related to serious sexual offences:

The target of a 28 per cent reduction over two years was missed, with the figures in fact showing a startling 46.2 per cent increase The report explains this shocking figure by saying a number of "historic" cases have come to light, resulting in the figures climbing beyond the target.

The report goes on to say: "I*n the majority of cases the suspect is known to the victim and is usually a family member, acquaintance or friend.*"

The clear inference is that a number of offenders who thought they had 'got away with' past crimes have now been brought to justice.

The report says that the domestic abuse co-ordinator will be working with agencies across the Vale and Cardiff to raise the profile of reporting sexual violence, and to make people aware of the support available.

OVERALL, CRIME FALLS

The statistics also reveal that over the year 2010-2011, crime overall fell by 5.1 per cent compared to 2009/2010 and there were areas where targets have been reached or exceeded.

These include:

- Domestic violence: Target 2.5 per cent reduction in repeat victims, target achieved, 6 per cent reduction

The report says that the domestic abuse co-ordinator, along with relevant agencies, has "done an excellent job of raising awareness of domestic abuse within the Vale".

However, actual reported incidents of domestic abuse have still increased by 25 per cent.

The report argues that this is a sign that victims are more confident in reporting such incidents, and says that the response by police and other agencies is succeeding in reducing the number of repeat incidents.

- *Serious acquisitive crime, where the target was 10 per cent, achieved a reduction of 15.1 per cent. However, the report says that there has been an increase in domestic burglary offences, 14.4 per cent compared to 2009/10.*

It says the increase in burglary occurred in the latter part of 2010 and the early part of 2011, and that five wards in Barry were the locations of approximately 40 per cent of all dwelling burglaries in the Vale.

The majority of offenders, when crimes were detected, were males. Set against these increases, however, were large decreases in the amount of vehicle crime in the Vale.

Theft of motor vehicles reduced by 15.4 per cent and theft from motor vehicles fell by 28.8 per cent compared to 2009/10.

Another area of the Safer Vale Partnership's work concerned smoke alarms, where there was a target of reducing the number of properties without smoke alarms by 20 per cent. This target was missed, and in fact there was a 45.8 per cent increase

The report says:

"*This is quite shocking when we take into account the fact that there was a 36 per cent increase in the number of alarms installed in 2009-10 compared to 2008-09.*"

The report says that previously the focus of the Fire Service was to increase the number of installations across the Vale and south Wales as a whole.

However evidence suggests that approximately three quarters of fire-related deaths and injuries involve people known to agencies associated with the local authority and Community Safety Partnership.

It says that focus is now shifting to the prioritising of high risk groups known to partnership agencies.

It is anticipated that during 2011-12, Fire stations in the Vale will install approximately 2,520 smoke alarms.

This is a reduction of 45 per cent in terms of the number fitted but it is intended to work with the Castleland Renewal Area to target services in that area.

Residents say 'Vale is a safe place to live'

Vale residents Vince Price and Angela Burrows, winners of the prize draw, are pictured with Coun Paul Church at the new Station 20 community room at Barry Fire Station.

VALE residents had the chance to have their say on crime and disorder in the recent Safer Vale survey – which also offered a prize draw.

A Vale Council spokeswoman said that 717 residents responded to the survey, an impressive return of more than 21 per cent.

"Respondents to the survey feel that the Vale is a desirable place, with 84 per cent stating that they feel the Vale is a safe place to live.

"Additionally, 61 per cent of respondents agree that police in the Vale are successful in tackling crime."

CCTV assists with two Barry arrests

CCTV operated by the Safer Vale Partnership, assisted with two arrests in the week ending May 22.

It contacted the police on 33 occasions, with two arrests made at Holton Road, Barry. The first involved theft on May 19, and the second criminal damage on May 20.

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'STRANGER DANGER!' WARNING AFTER MAN ATTEMPTS TO ABDUCT THREE YOUNG GIRLS

REPORT by JAYNE ISAAC

WARNINGS have been issued to parents throughout Bridgend and the Vale of Glamorgan, after an incident in which an attempt was made to abduct three young girls.

Police are investigating the incident, which took place last week in Talbot Green.

The girls, aged eight and ten years old were walking in Ely Valley Road at about 4pm on Monday, May 16, when a man called to them from a silver coloured car and asked if they wanted a lift.

They refused and the car, with tinted windows, then drove off.

Talbot Green Neighbourhood Policing Sergeant Jeff Jones said that this was a distressing incident for the three young girls, and they are hoping that anyone who witnessed the incident will come forward.

He added: "We also ask anyone with information about the identity of this man to contact the police."

Police schools liaison officers have been in touch with schools in the area and police have increased high visibility patrols in the neighbourhood at the start and end of the school day to help reassure both parents and children.

Police are reinforcing the "stranger danger" message by urging local youngsters to be careful when out playing, and to remind them to tell their parents or guardians where they were going.

Children are being told not to talk to strangers and to stay with their friends.

News of the attempted abduction has shocked parents throughout the area. One mother, who lives in the Aberthin/Ystradowen area and whose child goes to Y Bont Faen in Cowbridge, said that she was very worried.

"The children have been warned at school about this incident, but I would never let my daughter out alone. It's far too worrying," she commented.

Warnings have gone out from both the Vale and Bridgend education authorities.

A spokesman for the Vale Council said that they had asked all schools to remind staff and pupils to be vigilant at all times.

A spokesman for Bridgend County Borough Council (BCBC) said that the education authority had notified all schools of the incident.

Headteachers have then decided whether to take any further action, Some schools, although not all, have sent either letters or text messages to parents.

Rumours abounded of sightings of the silver car near schools throughout a wide area.

One mother of a child in a Vale school said that the parents' grapevine was aware of incidents in both Bridgend and Margam

However, South Wales Police issued a statement on this subject on Tuesday, May 24.

It said: "A number of calls have been received by police officers reporting other similar suspicious incidents.

"While these calls have been well intentioned, a number of them have already been fully investigated and have been unfounded."

Detective Inspector Andy Jones said: "We are grateful to the public for their vigilance and we will investigate every incident that is reported to us.

"However, we ask that callers are certain of the events before they contact us, and give us as much information as possible."

Superintendent Dawn Hubbard said: "There have been a number of rumours circulating about abductions and attempted abductions in the area, as well as in Bridgend and Port Talbot.

"I want to reassure the public and parents and children in particular that no such incidents have taken place."

Anyone with information is asked to contact Sgt Jeff Jones at Talbot Green police station on the Crimestoppers number 0800 555 111.

ABOVE: Church officials (left to right Hadyn Burgess (church treasurer), Sheila Thursby (church secretary), Jack Fairweather MBE, Fay Fairweather and Rev. Duncan Ballantyne (church minister)

HOLY TRINITY PLAQUE UNVEILED AT BARRY

Jack Fairweather unveils the plaque at Holy Trinity church.

AS previously reported, on May 14 at Holy Trinity Presbyterian Church, Barry, long-serving member Jack Fairweather, MBE, unveiled the plaque to officially open the new building.

This was done in the presence of more than 100 friends of the church, including Church Moderator of the General Assembly, Rev Iain Hodgins, Moderator of the Association, Rev Tom Phillips and local dignatories.

These included AM Jane Hutt, Coun Gordon Kemp and his wife, Coun Kathryn Kemp, Mayor of the Vale, Coun Colin Osborne and the Mayoress, Mayor of Barry Town Council, Coun Bronwen Brooks and consort Mrs Kandi Elmore.

School's PE gold star!

GWENFO Church-in-Wales Primary School has received a gold star after its work in PE received a glowing report.

Sport Wales and the Association for Physical Education are championing schools which recognise the importance of PE.

All schools can apply for ActiveMarc Cymru and this year, 29 schools from across Wales have sailed through.

Gwenfo was congratulated by Alun Cairns MP, who said: "Active Marc Cymru recognises that the school is committed to developing and delivering high quality physical education. Congratulations once again, and best wishes for the continued success of the school."

The chair of Sport Wales, Professor Laura McAllister, explained: "We believe that schools play an essential role in building a Wales in which children are hooked on sport for life.

"It is important that young people have positive early experiences of sport and physical activity that build a foundation for lifelong involvement in sport. This award recognises those schools that are giving our children an excellent start."

CHARITY BALL

THE Miss Wales finalists will be present at the Miss and Mister Wales charity ball in aid of the Joshua Foundation at the Mercure Holland House Hotel in Cardiff on July 1, the night before the Miss Wales 2011 final.

Hosted by the reigning Miss Wales, Courtenay Hamilton, the black tie ball will include a drinks reception, three-course meal and entertainment.

Tickets and further information from www.miss-swales.co.uk

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Bonvilston concert supports the Vale's Eisteddfod effort

Photographs by **IAN DIXON**

THE Vale-wide fundraising campaign to support the 2012 National Eisteddfod in Llandow was boosted recently by a concert in Bonvilston Reading Room.

The Cantorian Choir was in fine voice and a packed hall enjoyed both the ensemble and solo pieces.

RIGHT and BELOW RIGHT: Male and female members of the choir.

PTA's CURRY NIGHT IS ENJOYED BY ALL

THE PTA at Peterston-super-Ely school recently held a fundraising curry and ice cream supper at the community hall.

It was followed by an auction, raffle and disco.

The funds raised will go towards outdoor facilities for reception and nursery pupils.

(Photographs by **IAN DIXON**)

SEARCH IS ON FOR VALE'S TOP GARDENERS

VALE of GLAMORGAN
BRO MORGANNWG

The Vale of Glamorgan Council has launched its annual search for the area's top gardens.

The Barry, Penarth and Villages in Bloom competitions involve residents and businesses across the Vale, with organisers selecting overall Vale in Bloom winners in best front garden and best commercial classes.

The Barry and Penarth competition will cover six classes of best front garden, most beautiful hanging basket display, best disabled gardener's entry, best children's entry (under 16), best residential home/sheltered accommodation and best commercial entry (including schools, but with a slightly different judging criteria).

In the Villages in Bloom competitions, there will be two classes, best front garden and best commercial entry.

The competitions are free to enter, with cash prizes and plaques or certificates. Some winners can also receive the following trophies:

Front garden: Penarth's best entry in the seafront conservation area receives the Robert and Joan Ernest Trophy.

Hanging basket display: Barry winner (Peter May Memorial Trophy).

Disabled gardener: Barry winner (Tony Gatt Memorial Cup).

Childen: Penarth winner (David Morgan Trophy) and Barry winner (Cabot Trophy).

The only requirement for entry is that displays must be visible from the road or footpath to the front of the property.

Application forms can be obtained from council offices in Barry (Civic and Dock), Wenvoe (The Alps) and local libraries, by telephoning **01446 700111** and on the council website **www.valeofglamorgan.gov.uk.**

The closing date for entries is Friday, 1st July, 2011.

Be a winner in the Vale's annual gardening competition

Competition Classes

• Barry and Penarth

1. Best Front Garden
2. Most Beautiful Hanging Basket Display
3. Best Disabled Gardener's Entry
4. Best Children's Entry
5. Best Residential Home/Sheletered Accommodation
6. Best Commercial Entry

• Villages

1. Best Front Garden
2. Best Commercial Entry
3. Most Beautiful Hanging Basket Display

Entry Form

Name .....

.....

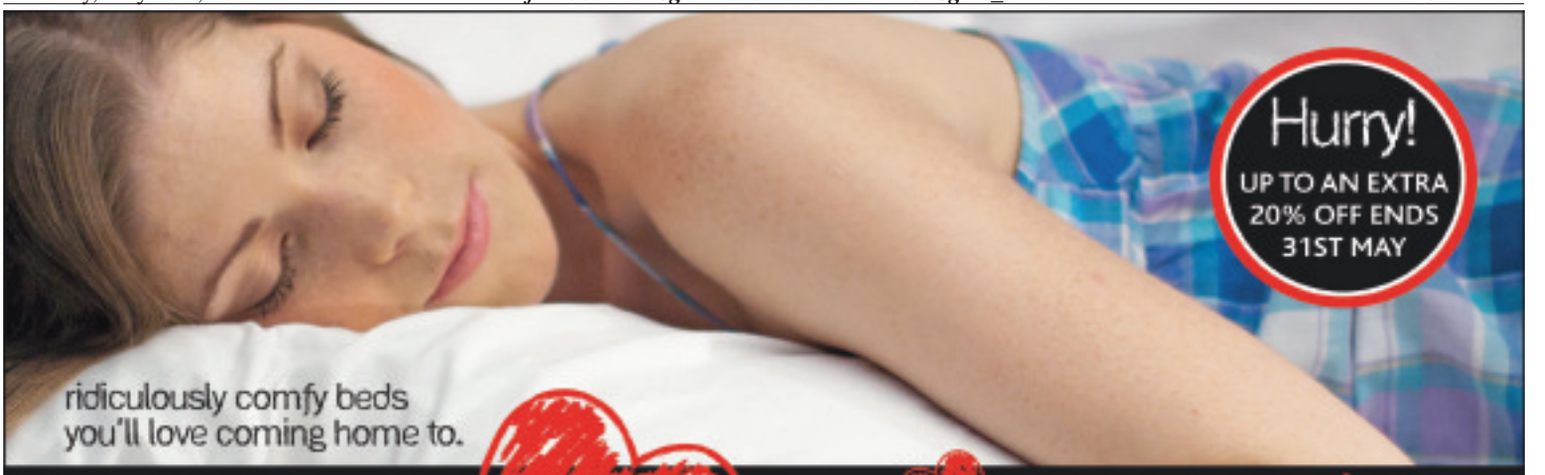
Full Address .....

Post Code ..... Telephone No. .....

Classes .....

Please send completed form to:
Vale in Bloom, The Vale of Glamorgan Council, The Alps, Wenvoe, CF5 6AA

- Entries must be clearly visible from the road or footpath to the front of the property.
- Prizes will be awarded for the first, second and third placed entrants in each class, as the judges deem appropriate. Plaques or certificates will be awarded to prize winners in all classes. Cash prizes will be awarded for non-commercial classes only. Commercial classes can allocate their prize to a charity of their choice.
- Children entering Class 4 must be under 16.
- Entrants who win a class for three consecutive years will not be allowed to enter the following year.
- Classes for the "Vale in Bloom Competition" will be – Best Front Garden and Best Commercial Entry
- **Judging will take place during the two weeks commencing Monday, 1st August, 2011.**
- Judges decision will be final in all classes.
- **Closing date for entries will be on Friday, 1st July, 2011.**



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Students make a film about life

STUDENTS at Barry College have produced a film on young people's life choices, as part of 'Working as a Team' for BTEC workskills. It focuses on issues such as education, bullying, drugs and alcohol, as well as the impact of domestic violence. Pictured are Fast Forward Directions learners with (front) Barry College director of learning Emil Evans, assistant principal curriculum John Hilton, learning assistant Sarah Grant, general education lecturer Dawn Latham, in-class support worker Sunray Heap, learning zone assistant Debbie Trezise, and head of department, general education, Martin Gordon.

GOLF DAY RAISED £4,500 FOR CHARITY

THE annual NFU Mutual Insurance Charity golf day, organised by local businessmen David Harris and Julian Kelly, was held last Friday at the Grove Golf Club, near Porthcawl.

More than 100 golfers of variable ability, together with the support of many local businesses, raised more than £4,500 in support of the Ed Evans Foundation.

Results from the Ed Evans Charity Golf Day

Winning team – NFU Southport agency with 106 points, comprising Neil Kenyon, David Shove, Andy Hilditch and James Skelton; runners-up – Laleston Lads team with 105 points, comprising Julian Kelly, Marc O'Sullivan, Gareth Jones and Paul Hodgkiss.

Third team – Big Foot Creative with 103 points, comprising Matthew Rees, Ray Murray, Joe Muir and Gareth Rees.

Best endeavour – The Leinster supporters team with 43 points, Eddie, Tony and Paddy Collins with Aubrey Thomas.

Men's individual – Andy Hilditch with 41 points.

Men's individual runner up – Marc O'Sullivan with 36 points.

Ladies individual – Sarah Morris with 31 points.

Ladies individual runner up – Marianne Allan with 28 points.

Men's longest drive – Matthew Rees.

Ladies longest drive – Dr Gail Price.

Nearest the pin 4th hole – sponsored by The Red Fox, Penllyne – Darrell Hammond.

Nearest the pin 7th hole – sponsored by The Grove Golf Club – Hadyn Painter.

Nearest the pin 12th hole – sponsored by The Bear Hotel, Cowbridge – Marc O'Sullivan.

Nearest the pin 18th hole – sponsored by Huddarts Restaurant, Cowbridge – Paul Davy.

Correctly guessing the number of balls that would be lost (247) – Jim Hayes.

TMcC

David Harris presenting the cheque to Mrs Sue Evans, mother of Ed Evans.

Clive Thomas collects the best endeavour prize.

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VALE BRIDGE CLUB WINS A £2,613 LOTTERY GRANT

VALE of Glamorgan Bridge Club held a celebration on Monday at Cowbridge Rugby Club, to mark a Big Lottery Awards For All grant of £2,613 to purchase computer 'Bridgemate' equipment. Jane Hutt AM handed over the cheque.

Brian Swain and his wife Pat with Jane Hutt AM.

The club was formed in 1987 at the Cowbridge Leisure Centre. the committee included myself as chairman, Dennis Smith as vice chairman, Mrs Marjorie Smith as treasurer and Pat Swain as secretary, who are all present members, and now joined by Graham Norris as tournament director and Barbara Easterbrook and Margaret Bancroft as committee officers.

In 1997, we moved to the British Legion Club and changed the name to Vale of Glamorgan Club. In 2005, the British Legion Club closed down and we temporarily moved to the Scouts Hall, but because of difficulties experienced at the premises, we were fortunate to change to the Cowbridge Rugby Club premises where we have spent many happy years up to the present time.

It is intended that the new equipment now purchased will enable us to join other bridge clubs in offering immediate scoring of bridge events electronically at the end of each session, and also hopefully to recruit new members.

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TUESDAY JUNE 7 Leave 1.30pm back 6pm
FRIDAY JUNE 10 Leave 11am back 5.15pm
Steam round the 'Channel Islands' of Steep Holm & Flat Holm – see the towering cliffs - seabirds & lighthouse £23 SC £21 Jun 10 - You also enjoy time in Clevedon.

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Exmoor Coast

WEDNESDAY JUNE 8 Leave 10am back 8.45pm
SATURDAY JUNE 11 Leave 11.45am back 9pm*
WEDNESDAY JUNE 15 Leave 10am back 9pm
SATURDAY JUNE 18 Leave 11am back 8pm
SUNDAY JUNE 19 Leave 9.30am back 9.15pm
Visit the seaside at Ilfracombe - Glorious Devon £31 Seniors only £29 on weekdays! On June 8 & 18 you can also enjoy a cruise exploring the National Trust Coast of Exmoor £33 *June 11 Return by coach from Clevedon

STEAM RAILWAY & MINEHEAD

WEDNESDAY JUNE 8 Leave 10am back 8.45pm
Cruise to visit Minehead and then join the West Somerset Railway for a 20 mile trip through beautiful countryside and 9 charming country stations. £39

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RIVERS & ISLANDS EXPLORER

FRIDAY JUNE 10 Leave 11am back 5.15pm
Cruise the River Severn and Bridges and round the Holm Islands - Flat Holm and Steep Holm £25 SC £23

PORTHCAWL & HERITAGE COAST
*Children Travel Free!**

SUNDAY JUNE 12 Leave 1.15pm back 7pm
Visit Porthcawl £19 SC £17 or stay aboard for a cruise along the Glamorgan Heritage Coastline £21 SC £19
**One free ticket with every adult ticket purchased*

MINEHEAD & PORLOCK BAY

MONDAY JUNE 13 Leave 2.15pm back 7pm
Cruise to charming West Somerset & visit Minehead £25.95 SC £23.95 Or enjoy the full cruise to view the beautiful West Somerset Coast & Porlock Bay £27.95 SC £25.95

L & B RAILWAY & Visit LYNMOUTH

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SUNDAY JUNE 19 Leave 9.30am back 9.15pm
SUNDAY JULY 3 Leave 9.30am back 9pm
Cruise to Ilfracombe and visit Lynmouth, the Switzerland of England before enjoying a trip on the Lynton & Barnstaple narrow gauge railway in North Devon inclusive fare £41

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WEDNESDAY JUNE 15 Leave 10am back 9pm
Don't miss the only chance to sail to Clovelly - cruise past the timeless village town viewing stunning coastline and dramatic Hartland Point with towering cliffs £37 SC £35 Visit Clovelly with time ashore £41 *Limited Availability*

EVENING SHOWBOAT

SATURDAY JUNE 18 Leave 8pm back 11pm
Step Aboard and let the band entertain you. Bring friends and family along for a great night out! *Groups of 6 or more only £17!*

Visit LUNDY ISLAND
Annual Church Service on Lundy

SUNDAY JUNE 19 Leave 9.30am back 9.15pm
SUNDAY JULY 3 Leave 9.30am back 9pm
Visit Lundy Island - explore this enchanting National Trust Island with spectacular views - seabirds - Church of St. Helena & Marisco Tavern - Inclusive fare £41

FIREWORKS SHOWBOAT

SATURDAY JULY 9 Leave 3.30pm back 10.30pm
Cruise the Holm Islands and see Fireworks as the band entertain you! £25 *Groups of 6 or more only £22.50*

3 RIVERS & 5 BRIDGES

SUNDAY JULY 10 Leave 11am back 6pm
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LOCAL STREET DANCE TEAMS SHINE IN WELSH SCHOOLS COMPETITION

DANCERS from four of the Vale secondary schools competed in the UDO Welsh Inter High School street dance competition on May 14 at Newport Leisure Centre against schools from across Wales.

The youngsters aged between 11–18 years competed in duos and team divisions before a judging panel of professional dancers and choreographers.

The event was supported by the Sports Council of Wales 5x60 initiative which aims to get teenagers taking regular exercise each week.

Local schools taking part were Bryn Hafren, St Richard Gwyn, Ysgol Gyfun Bro Morgannwg and Cowbridge.

The duo section had entries from Ysgol Gyfun Bro Morgannwg with Sophia Hathaway and Millie Charles Davies, Elysia Bobbett and partner Kerys Jenkins.

St Richard Gwyn was represented by Christina Tsenti and Frankie McGill, Keera Gravet and Olivia Miller and Callum Osborne and Chloe Parris took second place in the final with their outstanding duet.

Cowbridge, Ysgol Gyfun Bro Morgannwg and Bryn Hafren had teams perform to a very high standard in the junior division but only the top five were chosen to compete at the national finals later on this year in Blackpool – two Vale schools were successful in qualifying.

Ysgol Gyfun Bro Morgannwg's 'Composure' comprised year-7, 8 and 9 students; Chloe Staples, Kimberley Williams, Tesni Sewell, Elysia Bobbett, Chenice Lincoln, Evie Carter, Kerys Jenkins, Lowri Clarke, Millie Charles Davies and Sophia Hathaway.

This piece choreographed by their 5x60 dance tutor Sophie Squires and dance leader Samantha Owens, achieved fifth place.

Bryn Hafren 'Dolls' had the following students perform from year-7, 8 and 9 – Chloe Dawkins, Tillie Carter, Leah Shepperd, Rachel Hazelton, Mollie Snell, Shannon Close, Chloe Davies, Kelsey Eady, Elizabeth Scott, Caitlyn Organ, Rebecca Weighell and Courtney Howells.

This unique dance piece choreographed by their 5x60 dance tutor Emma Mallam and dance leader Ellie Carter, achieved second place.

The senior division was represented by St Richard Gwyn High School and Bryn Hafren Comprehensive.

St Richard Gwyn were unlucky to miss out on the national finals by coming sixth in the competition with their dance piece 'Recess' choreographed by Emma Mallam and dance leader Yazmin Harcourt. Dancers Keera Gravett, Olivia Miller, Olivia Harris, Olivia McCormack, Callum Osborne, Chloe Parris, Frankie McGill, Christina Tsenti, Amber Horton, Ellie Gillard, Kate Spence and Paige Jones were devastated.

They were pleased, however, that dancers from Bryn Hafren, Amber Summers, Nioami Everitt, Rhia Dutton, Brooke Clark, Rhian Dwyer, Kiera Davies and Chaliese Ludvigsen known as 'Adrenaline,' won first place with their outstanding performance and choreographic piece.

The three Vale teams will now be competing at the national schools final against school teams from across the UK where they will also have the chance to meet.

I am so proud of the standard of street dance that was shown on the day of the competition from all the dancers from the Vale schools,.

Their dedication and commitment to the 5x60 dance sessions showed in their performance, as they were all confident and interesting to watch.

Thanks go to all the tutors and 5x60 officers from each school for their hard work and support.

EMMA MALLAM

Adrenaline Dance Crew, Bryn Hafren

'Composure', Ysgol Gyfun Bro Morgannwg.

ABOVE: 'Recess', St Richard Gwyn.

BARRY TOWN BUY-OUT ON OFFER TO FANS

BARRY TOWN fans are in a race against time to ensure the club can play in the MacWhirter Welsh League for the 2011-12 season.

Supporters need to raise the sum of £125,000 and be able to make additional payments in years to come.

A statement on the club's website explained: "Barry Town AFC Ltd is being offered for sale at a reduced price in order for the first team to continue playing in the Welsh League.

"The club is being offered at a £125,000 down payment with further instalments of £2,000 per month for three years."

If fans or an individual buyer cannot raise the necessary funds, it won't mean the end of the club, but the chairman Stuart Lovering has decided he can no longer pay out subsidies to the senior team.

The statement points out: "If no buyer is found the club will continue to operate children and youth teams, as well as adult teams – but at a lower league level.

"The costs of the team and playing at Jenner Park have been paid for by the current chairman since he saved the club seven years ago – but he can no longer subsidise the first team.

"The club might therefore appeal to a couple of guys or a family who would like to own and run their own bar and football club with scope for greater income from starting food sales in the 400 capacity clubhouse that overlooks the stadium from the first floor."

The statement concludes: "Alternatively, one or more businesspeople may be interested in running the club as a self-funding enterprise to enjoy the football side of the business."

Serious investors are invited to contact Mr Lovering on 07751 441 561.

Community council elects new chairman

Outgoing chairman Coun John Huw Williams transferring the chairmanship to incoming chairman Coun Christopher Williams.

AT the annual general meeting of the Dinas Powys Community Council last week in Lee Hall, Coun Gale Smith proposed Coun Christopher Williams as chairman of Dinas Powys Community Council.

She said that he had been a community councillor for nearly 20 years after winning a by-election in 1992.

Educated at Fitzalan High School and the University of Wales Institute (UWIC) where he studied electrical engineering and electronics, he went on to a successful career as a sales engineer.

In 1980, he and his wife Jacqui moved to Dinas Powys and have three sons, Rhodri, Bryn and Ioan.

In 2000, he became a county councillor for Dinas Powys and served briefly in the Labour/Plaid cabinet holding the portfolio for planning and transportation.

He is chairman of scrutiny for economic development and environment, as well as being scrutiny champion for the Vale.

He is also chairman of Prosiect Gwyrdd (Green Project) joint security panel for the combined councils of Cardiff, Caerffili, Monmouthshire, Newport and the Vale.

Kay aims to be Welsh Learner of the Year

A VALE woman is one of the four finalists in line for the Welsh Learner of the Year title.

Kay Holder works as a private tutor in Spanish, French and German. Originally from Penarth, she lives in Dinas Powys and started learning Welsh at the Cardiff held National Eisteddfod in 2008,.

She is now helping preparations for the 2012 National Eisteddfod which will be held at Llandow in the Vale.

Kay said: "I'm a vegan and I attended the Eisteddfod to promote veganism, and discovered a new language, culture and world.

"I also started learning the harp at the Eisteddfod in Cardiff and have already completed the Grade 3 exam. So the Eisteddfod changed my life!"

Kay studied Welsh when living in England, and after returning to Wales, has attended refresher courses and Siawns am Siarad 4.

The Welsh Learner result will be announced at this year's National Eisteddfod in Wrexham on July 30–August 6.

Open Farm Sunday

TO mark Open Farm Sunday – an annual event where people can meet local farmers who grow their food and care for the countryside – Slade Farm organics are opening their farm gates on Sunday, June 12 for a free day out.

Activities include tractor and trailer rides, pig-racing and a farm olympics, a gentle farm walk and a reviving cup of tea!

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NEWS FROM THE PENARTH & DISTRICT RAMBLERS

Walkers enjoy looking out from Holy Mountain

ON an overcast morning, a group of 15 walkers, including leader Clive, made their way to Llanvihangel Crucorney at the start of a nine-mile walk in the area, beginning at possibly the oldest pub in Wales – the Skirrid Inn, which dates back to 1100.

Crossing the main A465 road with care, the group headed down the driveway of the privately owned Llanvihangel Court, a 15th century Tudor manor house which contains some fine 17th century panelling, plaster ceilings and a fine oak staircase.

Continuing along a tree-lined lane, they crossed fields to reach a lane, which in turn led them to Pen-y-Parc, where they paused to enjoy morning coffee, watched closely by a bull in a nearby enclosure, which plainly had his eye on their sandwiches!

The gentle ascent of The Arwallt followed along to the base of the north end of the Skirrid Mountain. Joining part of the Beacons Way, the 100-mile long distance footpath running through the centre of Wales, the group began to climb up onto the ridgeway.

They passed the remains of the Roman Catholic Church dedicated to St Michael that was reputed to be a secret location for Catholic mass during the 17th century when Catholics were persecuted for practising their faith.

Folklore has it that the earth from Skirrid was holy, and so it was taken away and scattered in fields on coffins and into the foundations of churches.

Skirrid Mountain or Holy Mountain or Sacred Hill as it is known, is named Ysgyryd Fawr in Welsh, the word Ysgyryd indicating the shape of the hill and meaning shattered. Legend has it that the hill broke into two at the time of Christ's crucifixion during a violent storm but realistically, it was formed during the Ice Age.

From their vantage point, they could enjoy the clear uninterrupted views of Blorenge, Sugar Loaf and towards the Malvern Hills, before it was time to begin the gentle descent along to the southern end of the ridge.

Finding a sun trap out of the blustery wind, the group enjoyed lunch before continuing downhill to return around the base of the mountain, where in a wood the bluebells were still in flower and very fragrant.

Passing through the valley of the rocks, they crossed several fields and a small wood to return to Llanvihangel Court, followed by some welcome refreshment at the Skirrid Inn. It is said, the rebel self-proclaimed Prince of Wales, Owain Glyndwr, whose aim (amongst others) was to make Wales independent, is alleged to have rallied his troops in the cobbled courtyard in the early 15th century before marching into battle.

On May 28, meet at 9am at Cogan Leisure Centre for an eight-mile moderate walk at Cwmcamlais; contact Phil on 01446 711533.

On May 29, meet 9.30am at Cogan for a seven-mile moderate walk in the Margam area; contact Val H on 029 2051 3274.

On June 2, meet at 7pm at Dinas Powys village square for a 3.5-mile moderate evening walk at St Andrews; contact Geraint on 029 2051 5278.

JOY STRANGWARD

Penarth Computer Club news

Mike F spoke about AutoCorrect to remind us how useful and customisable it can be. These are his (edited) notes:

INITIALLY, I would point out that the software I use is 'Open Office' which is a free download. It operates in most aspects exactly the same as 'Microsoft Word'. For this cameo talk, my experience indicates that the Auto correct function is identical.

Before examining Auto correct in detail, note two related icons on the toolbar marked 'ABC'. The one with the tick underneath it (when clicked) will undertake a grammar and spell check of the whole document. The other icon, the 'ABC' with the wavy line underneath, switches on and off the 'Auto spell Check' function that draws a wavy line underneath any word the computer doesn't recognise. If you click on the relevant word it will provide a list of the words you might intend.

To access 'Auto correct' you click on Format>Auto correct>Auto correct Options. This opens the Auto correct dialogue box. This displays four tabs, namely 'Replace', 'Exceptions', 'Localised Options' and 'Word Completion'.

Taking these tabs in sequence, 'Replace' lists those words that are commonly misspelled together with the correction that will be made. In addition, if there are any words you constantly mistype you can add these too. There is a useful function in this section which is not always appreciated. If you regularly write the same phrase, sentence or paragraph you can insert a code (a deliberate misspelling!) in the left hand box and in the replace box write what you want instead.

Thereafter, whenever you type the relevant code, when you press the spacebar your phrase, sentence or paragraph will be substituted. eg mfa(spacebar) will insert my full address because I have set it to do this.

Next along the line is 'Exceptions'. This does what it says on the tin! For example, if you wish to abbreviate the word accountant to acct; if you write acct, it might automatically insert the full word, but as it is in the exceptions list if you type acct. with a full stop after the 't' it will accept it.

After this comes 'Options' – this one largely speaks for itself, here you can tick boxes to select those functions you wish to use.

'Localised Options' allows you to set the system to ensure whenever you type 1, followed by s, and t, it makes it 1st. In the same way you can opt to use single or double quote marks.

The final 'Word Completion' tab completes the word it thinks you want. Eg, 'comp' might be completed as 'completion', hit enter to accept the change. Some find this unhelpful as wrong assumptions then need editing! You could use the crafty cheat under the 'Replace' tab as described above.

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Moving on from the Famous Five and Secret Seven....

Childcare has changed since days of Enid Blyton

by PHILIP IRWIN

THERE must be more than a few parents who approach half term and cast a wistful eye back towards child care in the Enid Blyton era.

Remember the adventures of the Famous Five and the Secret Seven?

There were no parents anywhere to be seen in the stories. The kids were packed off to stay with an aunt in some secluded area far from the nearest town, but that one adult's only purpose was to provide a bed for the night, give them a packed lunch, and provide a slap-up evening meal with, of course, 'lashings of ginger beer'!

As far as the Famous Five or Secret Seven were concerned, there were no organised play sessions or issues with parental supervision.

The kids provided their own entertainment by catching a gang of international smugglers, or perhaps by discovering the lair of a nest of spies!

However, times change and there is no point moaning about it. The world is different now and you can't go back.

Traditionalists may complain that children today lead a hermetically sealed existence with no opportunity to run wild and free, but we live in a different world.

For modern parents, the cup overflows with opportunities to give their child experiences that can be enriching, educational and fun!

After-school activities, whether at school or at any one of a myriad of evening sessions, already have parents following a timetable that is based around giving their child a chance to try different things, whether that be swimming, gymnastics, chess, drama – the list goes on...

When half term comes around, the dilemma seems to lie in whether to choose an activity that will develop the personality or the physical well-being.

It is ironic that, at a time when so much information is available on how to be a good parent, the sheer quantity of advice ends up leaving many parents confused (at best) or guilty (at worst).

As recently as last weekend, the newspapers were carrying reports saying that children nowadays are physically weaker than their counterparts 20 or so years ago.

They can, apparently, do fewer press-ups, sit-ups or pull-ups.

This is a surprise, because sports reports here in The GEM suggest that the Saturday or Sunday morning ritual of mini football or mini rugby is still going strong.

The question is, in a technological future with less scope for physical manual work, how important is that lack of strength and fitness going to be?

Perhaps the modern parent should be developing the IT skills rather than those biceps and quads!

Another dilemma for parents is this one: Do you work on your child's strengths or weaknesses?

This is a really tricky one because, not surprisingly, children prefer to do the things they are good at. Somehow the joys of self improvement are lost on a young one.

Perhaps the thing to do is use times such as half term to embrace the different possibilities. On these pages there so many to choose from.

Half term is a an ideal time to experiment. Do some old favourites but make sure you try a few new things to see how your child takes to them.

And finally... Well, you can always send them and a few friends out for the day to see if they catch some smugglers – with supervision, of course!

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That's all it will cost for youngsters aged four to 11 to take part in street dance and cheerleading sessions, both of which will be on offer at all four of the county's main leisure centres in Barry, Penarth, Cowbridge and Llantwit Major. A number of other activities taking place during the week will cost only £1, including dance mats, tag rugby, football and soft play.

The new interactive dance mats will also form one half of disability sport sessions at Barry Leisure Centre, along with a swimming lesson.

Further swimming lessons will be available for children aged four and above, in crash courses being held in Barry, Penarth and Llantwit Major.

Under-16s can also swim for free at specific times, or take their pick from a number of pool-based activities, including snorkelling, water polo and a rookie lifeguards course.

For full details, programmes can be collected from the leisure centres, or downloaded from www.valeofglamorgan.gov.uk/leisurecentres (or call 01446 403000).

The Barry and Llantwit Major leisure centres will be closed on Monday, May 30, while Cowbridge Leisure Centre, Penarth Leisure Centre and Holm View Leisure Centre will all close early at 5pm on that day.

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Check out our Out and About pages on 28 and 29 for more great activities for both young and old! Also see page 20 for a chance to win one of two pairs of tickets to this Saturday's performance of High School Musical at Porthcawl's Grand Pavilion!

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FRIDAY THE 13TH, LUCKY FOR SOME!

FRIDAY the 13th was certainly not an unlucky day for personnel at MoD St Athan – the weather might not have been up to much, but there was sunshine and smiles from SWARM members Diane Jones, Helen Taylor, Leah Lewis, and Stephanie White.

Left to right: Midnight Sleep Walkers, Leah Lewis, Stephanie White, Diane Jones and Helen Taylor.

They toured the site with a wonderful selection of homemade cakes to sell in aid of Ty Hafan. During the morning, the sale of cakes raised more than £246 which went towards their sponsorship of the event.

SWARM members had again signed up to take part in the Ty Hafan Sleep Walk which took place in Cardiff on the night of Friday, May 13. The ladies walked from the Millennium Stadium around the city centre before heading to Cardiff Bay and then returning to the stadium.

The walk covered eight miles and to aid visibility and to keep the walkers safe, the organisers issued each participant with flashing bunny ears and glow jewellery to wear with their pyjamas. The ladies started arriving back at the stadium in the early hours of Saturday morning with the stragglers making it back by 3.30am!

SWARM member Diane, who walked with her daughter, Alison, said: "The Midnight Sleep Walk is a chance for women to show their support for mothers who have to endure endless nights with no sleep to care for their children.

"The walk is a much-needed event to not only raise money, but also to raise awareness of the work that Ty Hafan does to help these mothers when their child has a life limiting medical condition."

It was hoped that the 400 Midnight Sleep Walkers at the Cardiff event would raise over £4,000 in just one night!

A difficult challenge, but achievable – and there couldn't be a more worthwhile cause. **JB**

Businessman's national award

BARRY businessman Clive Thomas has been awarded the 'leadership in private sector' award at this year's 2011 Leading Wales awards, which recognise leadership across all levels, in association with Real Radio Wales.

He was one of three finalists in the category and was recognised for 'setting an example and leading from the front'.

ABOVE: Clive Thomas.

Another great GEM younger readers' competition

The GEM has joined forces with The Grand Pavilion, Porthcawl to offer two free pairs of tickets to this Saturday's High School Rocks extravaganza.

To win one of the two free pairs of tickets, you need to be quick! E-mail The GEM by noon on Friday 27 May with your name and contact details to **gemsales@tindlenews.co.uk** with the subject line **'Grand Pavilion Competition'**.

Please seek permission from a parent/guardian if you are under 16 and include their details when entering the competition. Please note, winners will need to pick up tickets from the Grand Pavilion box office on Saturday 28 May for the show which starts at 2.30pm.

Would-be Wildcats of all ages will love this afternoon of high energy, foot stomping, totally interactive music and singing with a set that features all the very best hits from all three High School Musicals, Hannah Montana – The Movie, Camp Rock with The Jonas Brothers and Glee. For one afternoon only the Grand Pavilion will become East High, and fans of all ages are invited to join in the fun.

Even if you're not successful, you can still book tickets for High School Rocks. Tickets are £12 and are available from the Grand Pavilion Box office on 01656 815995, or you can book online at **www.grandpavilion.co.uk**

BARRY RFC 2010/11 SEASON REVIEW

Successful season for rugby teams

AFTER being promoted as champions the season before, hopes were high that the Barry First XV were going to perform well again this season, under the management of Prosser and Gibbons.

The season got off to a flying start, with the team winning three on the trot, including two games where they achieved bonus points.

Hopes for successive promotions, however, were soon dented by a poor run of results, not helped by a mounting list of injuries to players in key positions.

Through hard work by the coaching staff and players, on and off the field, the team finally turned the corner just before Christmas when they notched a hard-earned win at home against Nantymoel.

With the turn of the year, more injuries meant that players graduating from the Second XV and youth team were given their shot in the first team, and they all performed admirably.

The combination of experience and youthful enthusiasm in the squad was reflected in the results, culminating in a derby victory against promotion-chasing Llantwit Major.

The green and whites finished strongly towards the end of the season, ending in fifth position, and having beaten three of the four teams above them in the table.

The future appears bright, and praise must be given to the coaching staff, management team and all the players involved.

Barry Second XV

WITH both the First XV and youth team winning their respective leagues last season, many believed this would be the season for the Second XV.

With former player Dai Griffith joining the coaching staff alongside Rhydian Scott, and team manager Charlie Chucas continuing where he left off last season, the team got off to a flyer.

With a huge amount of players to choose from, many talented players were left out of the match squad altogether, but that did not affect the cohesion, as was reflected in the on-field results.

There was an extra steel in the Barry Second XV attitude and a determination to win every single game, culminating in some fantastic attacking rugby.

Nine straight wins before Christmas propelled them to the top of the table, with impressive displays, particularly away at Pontyclun and Old Illtydians.

A slight dip in form just after the turn of the year, partially due to injuries and first team call-ups, failed to dampen the spirit of the squad, and it all came down to the last home game against Clwb Rygbi, when the team ran in six tries to secure the title and promotion.

The season showcased the talent that was available in the squad and that the players were no longer just happy with taking part.

The fantastic winning attitude was a pleasure to see and the coaching staff must be congratulated on creating such a positive mentality.

Barrians

FOR many years, there was a struggle to find sufficient players to field a second team, but their success this season has seen the creation of a third team – the Barrians.

With player-manager Ken Chow persuading William Knapman out of retirement to help manage the team, many former players were lured back to don the green and white jersey once more with pride.

Blending the experience of these former players with the enthusiasm of others who have only just started playing rugby, the Barrians slowly found their way.

There were some disappointing results against much stronger opposition, but the team finally earned their first win away at Wick, followed by back-to-back victories against Sea View and Cardiff HSOB in November.

The Barrians continued to evolve in the second half of the season as more players joined, and their game against Spanish opposition from Vic was a celebration of rugby, with the match being played in good spirits.

The team will hope to build on their foundations laid this season and to continue to support the two teams above them, while also allowing players to enjoy themselves on the pitch.

Club news

THE Barry RFC club dinner will be held on June 18.

Tickets are limited, and are £10 for players and £15 for non-players.

Anyone interested should contact the clubhouse or Andy Jamieson at Vale Street Post Office as soon as possible.

KC

Win England-Sri Lanka Test match tickets!

TO celebrate the first npower Test Match of 2011 from May 26-30, which will see England take on Sri Lanka at Sophia Gardens, Cardiff, npower are giving cricket fans a chance to watch the action unfold before their very eyes at the stadium!

Following their victorious win in Australia to retain the Ashes, England will be looking to make a solid start to the season on home soil.

However Sri Lanka will be no push over, so an exciting contest of wickets and runs is sure to be on the cards.

npower are proud sponsors of Test Match cricket. For more information, please visit *www.npower.com/cricket*..

The Glamorgan GEM has a pair of tickets available for Saturday and Sunday, and for your chance to win a pair of tickets, just answer the following question: *Who is the current captain of the England Test team?* **A**)Andrew Strauss, **B**)Kevin Pietersen or **C**)Andrew Flintoff.

Email your answer, along with full name and telephone number, to gemsales@internet-today.co.uk no later than 11am on Friday, May 27.

You must be available to collect the tickets from our office in Cowbridge no later than 4pm the same day.

No correspondence will be entered into and judge's decision is final *- good luck!*

Findlay's Find wins point-to-point race

BARGAIN buy *Findlay's Find* – he cost his owners Paul and Myfanwy Miles just £500 – landed the mixed open race at the Gelligaer Farmers Hunt Point-to-Point Steeplechases in great style, coming home six lengths ahead of *Chesnut Annie*.

Both the winner and runner-up are qualified with the Ystrad Taf Fechan Hunt, and when *Chesnut Annie*, under her regular pilot Isabel Tompsett, went clear of *Lucky Nellerie* approaching the 12th fence, her backers must have thought the 10-year-old mare was on her way to her 30th success.

But it was not to be, as the remarkable five-year-old *Findlay's Find*, who was winning for the third time in just seven days, overtook her much older rival three fences from the finish and went on to win by six lengths, with *Bob Bites Back*, ridden by Nick Williams, a distant third.

Williams had been aboard *Findlay's Find* when it had won at Laleston the previous Saturday and three days later, when winning the ladies' open at Cottlestone, Claire Hart had been in the saddle.

However, the winning rider on this occasion was Richard Burton, who is something of a legend in hunt-racing circles having ridden more than 400 winners.

Earlier, *Chesnut Annie's* rider Isabel Tompsett had won the members' race on Jason Parfitt's lazy grey *Turbulance,* who had to be coaxed around by the reigning Welsh champion rider and eventually won by 15 lengths from *Rich Nomad.*

There was a good finish to the confined race in which former Dudley Cup winner *Cottage River*, ridden by Jodie Hughes, beat *Hollow Ranger*, ridden by Ben Poste, by three parts of a length.

Princesse De Rome, partnered by Nick Williams, looked like winning but run down the last fence and finished a further half-a-length away in third.

Jodie,who is making a bold bid for the Welsh ladies championship, said: "I must have been two lengths behind jumping the last and this is my sixth winner of the season."

Jodie's partner, Paul Tolman, took the restricted race on Dr Simon Clarke's 10-year-old *Diddle'Em* which jumped the last fence alongside *Spring Haze* ridden by Tom David.

Diddle'Em, a 12–1 chance, won by two-and-a-half lengths and was winning for the first time in three years.

The biggest cheers heard at a Welsh point-to-point in years went to Paul Sheard, who landed the young horse maiden race on his seven-year-old bay gelding *Gouranga Society*. Paul (40) from Culverhouse Cross in Cardiff, survived a bad mistake at the 13th fence when leading the field a merry gallop, but was soon back in the lead.

Strongly challenged in the closing stages by Nick Williams on the favourite *Glenseskin,* Paul cheekily stood up in his stirrups just before the finish to win by a neck!

Paul, who is just 5ft 2ins, has only ever ridden one other winner and that was *ItsOnlyMe*, which won the Welsh Point-To-Point 'Grand National' over four miles at Pentyrch back in 2006.

Young Bradley Gibbs, who rides out for Aberthin's Tim Vaughan, recorded his seventh winner of the season when winning the aged horse open maiden on Paul Riddick's nine-year-old bay mare *Sheer Brilliance,* who scored by seven lengths from *Peterman* ridden by David Prichard.

BRIAN LEE

Jockey seriously injured in race

A FEMALE jockey with strong connections to the Vale and Bridgend councty borough has been seriously injured in a fall at a race in England.

The leading amateur rider Isabel Tompsett, who many hunt-racing enthusiasts in the Vale will associate with Beth Roberts's prolific winner *Chesnut Annie*, is – at the time of writing – on a life support machine at Addenbrooke's Hospital.

Isabel (28) sustained serious head injuries after falling from *Leopold* in a hurdle race at Fakenham on Sunday, stopped breathing twice and had to be resuscitated by paramedics.

She was taken to Norwich and Norfolk Hospital but later transferred to Cambridge.

Only 24 hours earlier, the reigning Welsh champion point-to-point rider had been successful on the grey *Turbulance* at the Gelligaer Farmers Hunt Steeplechases at Lower Machen.

She later finished second on *Chesnut Annie* to Findlay's Find in the mixed open race *(see article above*).

Isabel, an equine vet of high regard, is well known to Vale trainers Evan Williams and Tim Vaughan and has won many point-to-point races in the Vale.

She has ridden winners on the flat, over hurdles and over jumps and won the 2009-10 female jump jockeys' title.

On Tuesday (May 24) it was reported that doctors were confident that Isabel had no serious neck or spinal injuries, and they had removed her neck brace.

A statement said that she was still heavily sedated, and that no change was expected in the next two or three days.

BRIAN LEE

Bryn Hafren girls say farewell as they move on to higher education and the real world!

YEAR-11 pupils at Bryn Hafren school, Barry, took a break from studying for exams to come to their leaving ceremony.

They were addressed by headteacher Phil Whitcombe, and certificates were handed out in a ceremony in the school hall.

Afterwards, the girls got together in form groups, or with friends, for the more recent tradition of signing shirts, as a memento of their time together in Bryn Hafren.

Pictures by ***IAN DIXON***

Cadets learn about times past in Barry town

Photographs by **Paul Jones**
www.valeevents.co.uk

CADETS from Penarth, Barry and Llandaff North detachments, took part in an inter-generational learning day at Barry Library, to coincide with the launch of Dr Jonathan Hicks' book, The Dead of Mametz.

Also at the event was Mrs Eileen Younghusband, providing a presentation on her book Not An Ordinary Life, and members of the local World War II re-enactment society.

Cadets gave presentations on field cooking, basha building and living comfortably in the field, and first aid skills. They also met and talked to a lot of members of the public.

To find out more about the Army Cadet Force, call 07779 693555, or visit www.armycadets.com.

Ring trees and tooth fairy pouches show pupils' enterprise!

THE YEAR-6 pupils and their teacher, Sue Thomas, at All Saints Church in Wales Primary School were very busy during the spring term working on their Mini Enterprize project.

Among the many handmade products they produced were jewellery, ring trees, tooth fairy pouches, pen holders and adorable pebble pets. They also made fancy cakes and sweets.

They held their fair last Friday after school and were inundated with eager customers who couldn't wait to bag a bargain. The youngsters thoroughly enjoyed their hands-on lesson in the world of commerce and their efforts raised a whopping £285 for Cancer Research.

Headteacher Richard Ware was impressed by the children's enthusiasm and keen business sense. Last week, Helen, a representative from the Marie Curie Foundation, was invited along to the school assembly to receive the cheque.

She warmly thanked Mrs Thomas and the pupils of Year 6 for a fantastic effort in raising money for this excellent cause.

NM

Hammer Strength Gym provides a lift for local weight trainers

EXTRA muscle has been added to leisure facilities in Barry – with the opening of the new Hammer Strength Gym at Holm View Leisure a spokesperson said.

A spokesperson said: "The new gym is perfect for anyone who is serious about their weight training, and is the latest in a series of exciting improvements that are being made in local communities across the town as part of the multi-million pound Barry regeneration fund,

"£100,000 was awarded by the Welsh Government for the Hammer Strength project, and the new gym is a huge improvement on the old Hammer Strength Gym, which was located just a mile away at the Colcot Sports Centre."

An area of the gym is dedicated to boxing training, with several punch bags and space for pad work, while a qualified member of staff will always be on duty to help with training advice.

Both the male and female changing rooms have been completely refurbished while the CCTV system has also been upgraded.

Speaking at the official opening of the new Hammer Strength Gym, the Vale Council's cabinet member for leisure and tourism, Coun Anthony Ernest, said: "I am delighted to see how an underutilised area of Holm View Leisure Centre has been transformed into another high quality leisure facility for the town.

"I fully appreciate that a number of customers were concerned that the council was taking a much-loved facility away from the Colcot Sports Centre, but the feedback so far since the move has been extremely positive.

"I would like to thank everyone who has worked so hard to make this project happen in such a short period of time."

St. Aubin's, Cowbridge Two Nurseries in One

ADVERTISEMENT FEATURE

St Aubin's Nursery brings its childcare ethos to Cowbridge

IT is not every day that a business opens in Cowbridge that will offer 50 new jobs, but that is the case with the opening of St Aubin's Nursery.

The former medical centre in the Old Hall Gardens has been transformed into a modern nursery with a range of facilities for children from six weeks to school age, and the setting is a perfect fit as far as the owner of St Aubins, Sue Evans, is concerned.

The nursery is open now, although the grand official opening will not take place until July, and Sue Evans spoke to The GEM about what prompted her to get involved in the care of young children.

She said: "The over-riding thing is that I love being with children, They are so honest, so funny and so direct – and I love to watch them develop."

Sue's first job in childcare was in a Welsh language play group, and she became a trustee of the Llandough Special Needs Children Centre – an experience that only increased her desire to work with children.

Shortly after, in 1990, she discovered that a French woman in Penarth was selling her nursery. However, that lady was particular and, rather than just talking cash, Sue found herself being interviewed to see if the lady felt she was a suitable person to take over!

Luckily, Sue passed the test and bought St Aubin's Nursery in Penarth. Sue said: "She explained that St Aubin was the patron saint of children, so I decided to keep the name!"

The name brought good fortune too, because the venture was a success, and Sue retained the name every time she looked at a new venture.

Expansion has been steady, giving each nursery several years to bed down and establish its own atmosphere before contemplating a new one.

At the same time, Sue kept up to date with developments in the field and is now the vice-chair of the National Day Nursery Association.

However, Sue lived in Cowbridge for several years and always wanted to open in the town, and she jumped at the chance when the medical centre became available.

The result is two nurseries in one – a Welsh language one, and an English equivalent – with dedicated staff for each. The two groups have their own areas, although there are certain play areas that are shared.

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 23)

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St. Aubin's, Cowbridge
Two Nurseries in One

ADVERTISEMENT FEATURE

'WE GO TO GREAT LENGTHS TO HELP THE PARENTS'

ABOVE: Osian has the honour of being the first little one to start at the nursery.

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 22)

Apart from the regular staff, a series of specialists are employed. A GP can advise staff or concerned parents, and the team can also draw on the talents of teachers, a nurse, play workers, a drama coach, and even sign language teachers.

When St Aubin's bought the medical centre, it came with six parking spaces outside in the car park alongside the town walls. Sue also became the owner of a sizeable chunk of the Old Hall gardens.

She told The GEM: "One of the reasons that I was so delighted to get this site was that I had been so impressed by the Cowbridge Physic Garden. When I discovered that the Old Hall Gardens were being revamped, I spoke to the Charter Trust to try and work with them.

"They have been so helpful and they are really doing a fantastic job."

In fact, when the official opening is held on Saturday, July 16, there will be celebrity guests and stalls in aid of charity, with the money raised shared between the Charter Trust and the Alzheimer's Society.

The nearby gardens fit in perfectly with Sue's philosophy, which is to let children enjoy the open air whenever possible. The nursery operates the Foundation Phase education system, learning through play, often outdoors, as advocated by the Welsh Assembly, but Sue's nurseries have been doing this for a lot longer.

All her nurseries are attached to parks, and her staff are used to letting children explore their surroundings while keeping a careful eye on them.

Sue added: "I have a fantastic group of people working for me, and everyone becomes part of the St Aubin family. We bend over backwards to help parents because we believe we should support the family unit.

"I think you have to look after your parents too, because some of them travel a long way to bring their children here.

"We send them off with a coffee and a croissant because they work hard all day too!"

PHILIP IRWIN

ABOVE: A helping hand from one of the staff.

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COWBRIDGE COMPREHENSIVE SCHOOL SPORTS ROUND-UP

School gymnasts finish strongly at the British championships

Gymnastics

THE British Schools Gymnastics Floor and Vault Championships were held over the weekend at Fenton Manor Sports Complex, Stoke on Trent.

The girl's team at under-13 were representing Wales as a region against Northern Ireland, Scotland and 15 regions from England.

This was a very strong competition at this level with the girl's team being first on the floor on Friday morning.

The judge's marks seemed slightly harsh for the girls compared with the rest of the day, but the girls gave their best and finished in the top ten regions.

Individual Scores	Vault	Floor	Total
Jasmine Stevens	8.30	7.05	15.35
Jordan Stevens	8.05	5.85	13.90
Bridgett Walters	8.20	6.45	14.65
Mia Sexton	8.90	7.90	16.80
Ellie Medlicott	-	5.45	-
Stephanie Sanders	8.35	-	-

Rugby

THE annual school First XV v The Old Boys rugby game was played recently at Cowbridge Rugby Club.

With the school side still fatigued from winning the National Vase two nights earlier, the Old Boys claimed a famous 19–12 victory.

The school side was missing the very influential Ben Smith and Reuben Tucker, and the Old Boys took advantage of this with some early dominance up front.

Scott Jones starred for the Old Boys at outside half and formed a great partnership with former captain Tom Howson.

Rhys Allin looked dangerous for the school team and Christian Roberts Walters showed glimpses of brilliance on the wing.

Gus Rees McPherson has been outstanding all season and carried lots of ball for the school side.

With both teams electing to run the ball at all times, the game was fast, flowing and open. The Old Boys deserved the close win after dominating large periods of the second half.

The game was followed by a presentation and dinner in the Cowbridge Rugby clubhouse.

Man of the match was deservedly won by Scott Jones from the Old Boys and player of the year was a two-way battle between Rhys Allin and captain Ben Smith.

The award went to Ben who showed excellent leadership skills throughout the season.

The team would like to send out a huge thank you to all parents, staff and to Dai Thomas for refereeing the game.

A special mention has to go to Cowbridge Rugby Club for their continued support and for providing a venue and meal for the game and presentation evening respectively.

The club will start pre-season training in the summer and all boys are welcome to attend.

Indoor Cricket

THE City of Cardiff and Vale of Glamorgan Schools indoor six-a-side under-13 tournament was held at Sophia Gardens Glamorgan Cricket Centre, Cardiff.

In a two innings match against Fitzalan School, Cowbridge scored well with a first innings of 96 for 3 off 10 overs, Oliver Pike 25 not out, the second innings were 120 for 1, Tom Lucas 24 not out, Matthew Harper 21 not out, Jonathan Harvey 23 not out, Oliver Pike 22 not out.

Fitzalan were dismissed for 44 in the first innings, (Rian Thomas 2 for 15. The second innings 49 all out, Adam Jones 2 for 6, Matthew Harper 2 for 11).

Whitchurch – 44 all out, (Rian Thomas 20 not out). 54 second innings, (Oliver Pike 19).

The strong team of Whitchurch passed the totals comfortably to win the tournament.

NEC

THE British Schools Sports Hall Athletics Championships were held at the NEC Birmingham, and 10 boys from Cowbridge Comprehensive School represented the county of Cardiff, and Vale Schools athletics represented Wales as a region at the above championships.

Having won the under-13 and under-15 boys age group at the Welsh championships in March, the county teams represented Wales as a region against Northern Ireland, Scotland and 15 regions of England.

Under-13 boys: the team finished ninth out of 18 regions with top performance of the day coming from county captain Tom Trotman of Cowbridge. Tom finished second in the high jump on count back with 1m 63cms. He also finished eighth in the two-lap race and sixth in the 4 x 2 lap relay team.

The next placed athlete was Ellis Rosser, seventh out of 36 in the six-lap race with 77.00 secs. Rian Thomas and Scott Thomas finished eighth in the eight-lap parlouff.

Nathan Robson was 10th for shot 9m 66; Kristian Jones 12th in the four-lap 49.10 secs; Harrison Stevens (year-7) 12th in the vertical jump 51cms;

Glan Williams presents the man of the match award to Scott Jones.

Team Physiotherapist of the Year award

and Daniel Oddy competed both in the obstacle relay and 4 x 1 lap relay.

Under-15s: Oliver Trotman from year-13 took the responsibility of managing this age group to help Glan Williams and what a fantastic job he did. He jelled the team together to produce the best set of results the county have had at this level.

With two Cowbridge boys in the team of seven, led by George Griffiths with Rafi Shrizard, they finished third in the team event out of 18 regions.

Both George and Rafi collected bronze medals in the 4 x 2 lap race. However, George picked up another three medals; a bronze in the two-lap race and silver in the standing long jump, equalling the Welsh record of 2m 8.2 and bronze in the individual all rounder's section out of 60 athletes.

Well done to all athletes who represented the school with distinction at the highest level possible. A big thank you to Oliver Trotman, who gave up his Sunday to help and support the county, using his experience of three previous visits as a competitor.

Athletics

THE year-12 and 13 pupils took part in the Cardiff and Vale Senior Championships. There were low numbers competing due to examinations, and Cowbridge fielded the biggest team and consequently won the team competition.

Sabrina James came first in the 1,500m in 6m 20.2, Holly Preece came first in the 3,000m in 15m 23 and Alyson Bater second in 10m 10.

Georgia Jackson came second in the 100 hurdles in 21.2, second in the triple jump with 7m 81 and first in the javelin with 15m 96, while Nicole Collier came first in the high jump with 1m 35, Louise Edwards came second in the shot putt with 6m 96 and second in the hammer with 14m 96, and the girls relay team came third.

In the senior girls event there were four county champions. Georgia Kemeys came third in the 100m in 15.7, fourth in the 800m with 3.14 and sixth in the long jump with 3m 71.

Jessica Hayes came third in the 100m with 15.9 and second in the 200m with 32.6.

Lydia James came fifth in the 200m with 36.8 and eighth in the long jump with 3m 01.

Katie Howson came second in the 400m with 77.0 and third in the javelin with 14m 04.

Verity Morgan came fifth in the 800m with 3m 14.4.

The boys faired nearly as well as the girls. Sam Bunkham was the only county champion in the triple jump with a jump of 11m 67; Sam also came 7th in the 100m with 13.2 and 2nd in the long jump with 5m24.

Jack Laidlaw came 4th in the 200m with 27.2 and 4th in both the long and triple jump.

Sam Street came 5th in the 200m, Rhys Allin came 2nd in the 400m, Josh Thomas came 6th in the 400m and 8th in the high jump, while Matthew Logsdon came 5th in the 800m, 6th in the high jump and 7th in the shot putt.

Richard Wilks came 6th in the 800m and 4th in the 1500m, Dylan Layzell came 2nd in the 3,000m. Jack Wilkins came 5th in the 3,000m, and Samuel Morgan came 4th in the 400m hurdles. Oliver Trotman came 3rd in the shot putt and 5th in the javelin, Sam Dowell Bennett came 7th in the discus and 5th in the hammer, and Will Johnson came 7th in the hammer and 6th in the javelin.

Under 15s Athletic team at the NEC in Birmingham

The first XV and Old Boys line up together

CKW Gymnastic girls

Meanwhile, Cowbridge year-10 and 11, athletes competed in the Cardiff and Vale County Championships held at Leckwith Stadium.

In common with some of the other competing schools, some athletes could not take part due to exams; however the girl's team still produced excellent performances and came second overall behind Bro Morgannwg.

Results: 100m – Isobel Armour fourth in heat one and Flynn Ashton sixth in heat 3; both did not reach the final.

200m – Mairi Boxall third in heat one and Flynn Ashton fifth in heat 3; both did not reach the final.

300m – Sophie Lloyd made the final after coming third in heat one and would have come third in the final with her heat time, however she did not compete! Beatrice Hawker came fifth in heat two.

800m – Rachel Bradshaw came third just beaten on the line and Jessica Jaques came sixth in the final.

1,500m – Fiona Bray came third in the final with a time of 5m 30.

3,000m – Miriam Bennett was the County Champion winning in 12m 42.

80H – Caitlin Allin came second in her heat and Shauna Jones made the final and finished sixth place.

300H – Miriam Bennett came second and Caitlin Alin 4th in the first ever 300m hurdles race.

Triple jump – Miriam Bennett finished seventh.

Shot putt – Isobel Armour came fourth and Hannah Jones twelfth.

Discus – Isobel Armour ninth and Hannah Jones eighteenth.

Hammer – A new event for Lucy Johnson and Anna Wynne, who came sixth and seventh respectively.

Javelin – Lucy Johnson came sixth and Anna Wynne seventeenth.

High jump – Rebecca Thomas and Molly Frost came equal fourth place.

Long jump – Romy Killick came sixth and Caitlin Allin seventh.

4 x 100m – Cowbridge came seventh in the final.

This is a great achievement by the Cowbridge team, as although Cowbridge have a new school and outside facility, still there are no fields in use so only running events can be practiced.

After the recent club fixture for Cardiff AAC in Cheltenham, school athletes had some excellent performances.

George Griffiths, long jump 6.23metres (first in the ranking for Britain), 100metres 11.7 seconds, 200 metres 24.0 seconds; Tom Trotman, high jump 1m 70 (new school record); Alex Love, 800 metres, 2m 19secs; Annabel Curle, high jump, 1m 50.

Best of luck to all during the athletics season.

Year-8 Sevens team lose out after two-point defeat

THE Welsh Urdd Sevens Tournament was held at Stradey School, Llanelli, and the school year-8 team was looking forward to this tournament after their experiences at Berkhamsted and Rosslyn Park.

The first day was four round robin games with a KO round:

Coed Cae Llanelli, won 29–7. Rian Thomas two tries, Tom Lucas (two), Tom Trotman.

Tregib Llandeilo, won 29–10. Tom Lucas (two), Tom Trotman, Joe Davies, Nathan Robson, Matthew Harper (two).

Pwllheli, won 45–14. Joseph Treharne (three), Rian Thomas (four), Matthew Harper five conversions.

St Cenydd, won 42–0. Tom Trotman (three), Rian Thomas (two), Joe Davies, Matthew Harper (five conversions).

Knockout round:

Cwm Rhymni, won 36–0. Tom Lucas (two), Tom Trotman, Joe Davies (two), Rian Thomas.

On day two, eight teams qualified for the quarter finals with two pools of four. Winners and runners up went through to the semi finals.

Cwmtawe Swansea, won 19–7. Tom Trotman (two), Ben Jones, Matthew Harper (two conversions).

Stradey School Llanelli, lost 19–21. Tom Trotman (two), Ben Jones, Matthew Harper (two conversions).

Glantaf, won 24–14, Tom Trotman (two), Rian Thomas, Ben Jones, Matthew Harper (two).

The game against Stradey School cost the team a place in the semi-final on countback of points scored. This placed the school third in the group as Glantaf and Stradey won two games also.

The school year-8 team has made tremendous progress in the sevens game this term, playing 24 games, winning 21 and losing three. Hopefully next year, this will help them succeed in winning a tournament. A big thanks you to the boys for all their hard work and dedication.

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BARRY ATHLETIC CRICKET ROUND-UP

Openers Nathan and Lee in 300-plus record stand!

BARRY Athletic CC celebrated another hat-trick of victories in what has proven to be a great start for the Stags in the Glamorgan and Monmouthshire Cricket League.

First, Nathan Baker's Barry Athletic 1st XI entertained league strugglers, Llantwit Fardre, as the Stags looked to establish themselves as a promotion contender for the second year in a row.

Baker won the toss and chose to bat first on what was a rock hard surface with a short layer of live grass, offering something for the bowlers.

The Stags began constructively, with the new ball offering some difficulty for batsmen, Lee Morgan and Nathan Baker. However, after they got settled into their stride, there was no stopping them.

Runs came flowing from the bat from all angles. The visitors had no answer as both passed the 50-mark in quick fashion and with just 35 overs played in the innings, both had amassed centuries and didn't look like stopping.

Everything went right for the Stags until the 42nd over, when Baker went after one ball too many and was brilliantly caught on the boundary, for a massive 181 runs from just 132 balls; a magnificent effort from the Barry skipper.

Morgan batted through, right until the decision came from the Stags to declare after 44 overs, finishing on 121 not out.

History was made at the Barry Oval as the highest partnership was smashed to pieces, with the first wicket partnership making a massive 317 runs. Barry finished on 333-1 declared from 44 overs.

After tea, the Stags rushed out to finish the job and they got off to the perfect start by removing Lewis for just four, after being trapped lbw by Hellyar.

It was a successful day for the Stag bowling attack as wickets came tumbling down. Griffett (1-24) and Hellyar (4-54) tore through the top order and with some fine fielding, Barry kept the pressure firmly on the visitors.

A partnership of 47 brought some respectability for Fardre, however, Gee (1-43) and Usswald (3-9) wrapped up the lower end of the order and Barry proved to be much too strong, on the day, winning by 194 runs and claiming their first maximum 20 points of the season.

Lee Morgan (left) 121 not out and Nathan Baker (right) 181 celebrate their record partnership of 317.

SECOND XI MAINTAIN GOOD EARLY SEASON FORM

SIMON PHILLIPS' Barry Athletic 2nd XI travelled along the M4, to face a possible 'banana-skin' in Rogerstone Welfare.

With the pitch not looking at its best and conditions favouring the bowlers, Phillips won the toss and had no hesitation in bowling first.

The Stags looked in dominant form as the 'Welfare' failed to cope with the strength in depth. Wickets became a regular thing as bowlers, Dafydd Frost (four) and Callum Twomey (two) ripped through the batting order and looked very confident in their deliveries. An excellent partnership of swing and seam could prove to be a successful one as they continue to develop.

Rogerstone didn't look like responding and the score could have looked a lot worse for the home side. A combination of excellent bowling and fielding, including two high-quality catches from Anthony Esposti, brought the innings to a premature end and Rogerstone were bowled out for a miserable 106.

The Stags continued their dominance into the second innings, having performed brilliantly with the ball, and looked very impressive in their run chase.

Despite the early loss of in-form Craig Brock for a duck, the Stags never looked like losing.

Batsmen, Andrew Buckland (51 not out) and Martin Baker (45 not out) put together a marvellous partnership of 107 to bring home the victory for the Stags and another march towards a possible promotion push for Division One cricket, next season.

STAGS MAKE IT 'SIX OF THE BEST'

Andy Ellis celebrated the club's sixth victory in a row (over two weekends) with a comprehensive 8-wicket win over Aberdare.

With a selection headache prior to the match, the Stags were able to field a few more familiar faces and give a debut to Steve Provis.

The conditions proved to be very difficult to bat, with gale force winds causing some disruption to the proceedings.

Therefore, it no surprise when Ellis won the toss and chose to have a bowl first.

The Stags began rampantly, as wickets began to tumble in the opening overs as the visitors failed to cope with the Stags.

Bowlers, Nathan Baker (2-17) and Jake Griffett (1-20) looked in good touch as Aberdare failed to cope with the Stags' bowling.

The wickets were pretty spread about with Sam Walsh (1-5), Steve Provis (1-8), Mitchell Facey (1-11) and Callum Twomey (1-24) all getting in the act. Only Jarrad Davies (42) showed some sign if resistance on what was a sorry looking scorecard.

Aberdare failed to show any promise towards the end of the innings as they were restricted to just 124-8 in 40 overs.

The Stags showed some signs of a mini collapse with chances on offer for the visitors to get a positive start in the second innings. However, even after the early dismissals of Jake Griffett (15) and Mitchell Facey (1), the Stags looked odds-on favourites to secure the victory with time to spare.

Batsmen, Steve Provis (54 not out) and Ashley Baker (43 not out), shared a 105-run partnership to secure the victory – a victory in which boundaries were hit at regular intervals and put the Stags in cruise control. Barry won the match with only 16.3 overs bowled, closing on 127-2.

UNDER-9 MINI-FESTIVAL WASHED OUT

BILLY Usswald's Barry Athletic under-9s were left disappointed with the news that the mini-tournament at St Fagans, was washed out by the overnight downpours.

They travel to Vale CC next Sunday, where they will face Vale, Creigiau and Whitchurch Heath.

A final reminder that the start of season party will take place this Saturday at the Barry Oval.

The party schedule contains live coverage of the Champions league final, and live disco.

Action will start at 7.45pm, after the match between Barry Athletic 2nd XI and Welsh Asians CC has concluded.

AB

Llantwit cup run is halted by Millwood

LLANTWIT MAJOR were at home for the A Cup game against Millwood.

In conditions worse than last Saturday, a strong, cold gusting wind made bowling very difficult. However, Millwood adapted to the conditions to win by 99–74.

Arthur Harvey's rink, E Lamb, M Mason and Phill Clarke, was the only rink to win after taking command at the outset after 10 ends to lead 19–7. Millwood started to improve but Llantwit stuck to the task and won 26–21.

Eric Hacker's rink, R French, K Morgan, P Twomey, despite a valiant effort, couldn't hold Millwood and went down 15–21.

Mike Adams' rink, A Wilkins, K Alexander, R Harding, had a hard game. Millwood led from the start and despite giving it their all, lost by 12 shots.

Captain Richard Gray's rink put up a good show. At the 10th end, they were leading by two, but Millwood started to improve and the final result was 15–27.

A tough game for everyone, and I suspect that everyone was glad to get off the green.

Rink scores: A Harvey 26–21; E Hacker 15–21; M Adams 18–30; R Gray 15–27.

The A Team bounce back!

LLANTWIT A were at home to Cadoxton A last Saturday for the fourth round of the cup.

What a difference from the previous Saturday, when Llantwit were hammered by Millwood.

The entire team played extremely well, winning on all rinks, beating Cadoxton by 40 shots.

Arthur Harvey's rink, E Lamb, M Mason and Phil Clarke won 33–13.

E Sparke's rink, R Gray, M Jones and Ken Williams won 21–14.

M Adams' rink, A Wilkins, K Alexander and roy Harding won 21–14.

Eric Hacker's rink, W Evans, K Morgan and P Twomey won 23–18.

A real shot in the arm after the previous Saturday's debacle. Overall score: 102–62.

The Vale CC Seconds end Ebbw Vale's unbeaten run

VALE 242-4 (45 overs); Ebbw Vale 123-4 (45 overs) – won by 119 runs.

Ebbw Vale won the toss and asked Vale to bat first. The Vale batting was opened by Gareth Andrews and former first team captain Carl Brooks.

For the second week in a row, an opening stand of 50 was put on the board before Brooks was clean bowled for 21 with the score on 52.

This brought the skipper Mark Francis to the wicket to join Andrews and these two added 36 before Andrews was clean bowled for a well made 45.

Chris Pike came to the crease but soon departed to a controversial lbw decision, leaving Vale 90-3 after 20 overs.

The skipper called for a runner, which allowed Pike to re-enter the fray. This appeared to improve the running and Neil Raikes, batting in his favoured No 5 position, continued his golden run of form as he steadily built a second successive 50.

For a second week in a row, Raikes and Francis (with help from Pike) put a 90-run partnership together before the skipper's painful stay at the wicket was ended, with another dubious lbw decision, for 53 including one six and four fours.

Geraint Parry, returning after injury, joined Raikes and added 58 to take the Vale score to 242-4 after 45 overs. Raikes, for a second week in a row, put a splendid innings together, mixing patience with raw power and finished 75 not out including one six and eight fours, with Parry looking good on his first outing of the season 16 not out.

Ebbw Vale set off in pursuit of the Vale total but found runs hard to come by off Vale's mean opening attack of Jack Davies and Chris Pike.

Davies, bowling five maidens in his first six overs and Pike, four maidens in his first six overs, ensured the visitors were never going to chase down Vale's total. Pike struck the first blow, knocking over the openers' stumps and that was soon followed by a second wicket as Shaun Boga-Lake took a marvellous juggling catch at mid-on.

Ebbw Vale's batsmen dug in and their difficulties in scoring runs continued as they only managed to post 40 off the first 26 overs.

Paul Gilbert, Oliver Pike and Shaun Boga-Lake all bowled good economical spells but still the wickets would not come. In a bid to get a further breakthrough and rattle through the overs as the skies darkened, the skipper gave Brooks' off spin a rare outing.

The experiment proved successful as he trapped the other opener, who had made a painstakingly slow 32, lbw leaving the visitors 75-3 in the 34th over.

The skipper returned to his opening bowlers to see if they could gain some further bowling points. Davies, bowling with genuine pace from the pavilion end, was desperately unlucky not to pick up a hatful of wickets but with the last ball of the innings, induced an edge to second slip which was well held by Chris Pike to gain Vale an extra bowling bonus point.

Ebbw Vale finished well short of the target on 123-4 after their 45 overs.

The Vale bowling figures were Jack Davies (11-4-31-1), Chris Pike (12-6-22-2), Paul Gilbert (7-2-14-0), Oliver Pike (4-0-9-0), Shaun Boga-Lake (5-0-17-0) and Carl Brooks (6-0-23-1).

RA

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Female footballers wanted

DINAS POWYS Football Club is continuing to promote girls football in the community and will be entering a new under-10s team into the South Wales girls league for the 2011/12 season.

The club is looking for players aged 7–10, of all abilities, who want to either try out a new activity or want to be part of a fun team sport.

Matches take place on Sunday mornings and training will take place on a weekly basis.

For more information please contact Luke Williams on 07832 273688 or email lukes-blues@sky.com.

LW

Waste of trip for Cadoxton bowls team

Cadoxton v Barry Plastics – Munro Cup

CADOXTON travelled to Sully for the Munro Cup match against Barry Plastics, and returned with no points.

Graham Brown's rink came closest to success when they lead throughout until a three on the final end gave the opponents, skipped by Eric Roberts, success by one shot.

Howard Craven's rink won three of the first four ends, before conceding a five on the next. They trailed 13-6 after 12 ends, then prevented the rink skipped by Bob Matthews from scoring for three ends, but lost the last four.

Les Cundliffe managed just six singles and a two against Bob Vodden's rink who scored steadily throughout.

Alan Carpenter and Lee Romans were the skips on the other rinks, which went in the visitors' favour during the first half of the game.

A six against stopped the run and boosted the home side to win the remaining ends except for two of them.

R Doble, P Ellis, I Robertson, G Brown 15–16 I Morgan, W Hogg, C Camber, E Roberts.

L Tanner, R Knight, L Davies, L Cundliffe 8–17 R Robbins, B Buckingham, M Phillips, R Vodden.

D Collard, R Cole, A Turner, A Carpenter 12–21 D Austin, R Clay, G Trickett, L Romans.

S Clements, K Tanner, M Curtis, H Craven 9–20 D Dyer, G Prance, M Morgan, B Matthews.

Final score: 44–74.

Cadoxton v Maesteg Welfare – Carruthers

CADOXTON had a very close encounter with Maesteg Welfare in this 'Carruthers' match, with two winning and two losing rinks.

Kelvin Chedgzoy had the most pleasing result, with his lead Glen Solomon performing excellently, thus enabling a 10-0 lead to be opened.

Two fours followed this shortly to increase the advantage to 24–6. The remaining two ends brought success for the opposition, by scoring four shots.

Don Kuhnell had a very tense struggle with his opposition, during which the scores were level on five instances throughout the game.

On the fifth occasion, the home side scored a two to level the score at 13-13, and were holding a one-shot advantage on the next end before the opposing skip, while attempting to move the shot with his last bowl, clipped his own bowl out to concede three shots.

Further advantage was then obtained by winning the next two, only to fail with a single against on the last.

Graham Brown skipped against probably the best rink on the visitors team, made up of well-established experienced players, and struggled for most of the game, to make any impression.

In a surprising start to the game on Howard Craven's rink, an eight against on the fifth end cancelled the euphoria of a 9-0 advantage and thus enhanced the performance of the opposition, while subduing the home team.

Although these two rinks lost, they played their part in the overall success of the game, when both scored a four on the final end to give Cadoxton a seven-shot success.

P Ellis, G Davies, I Robertson, G Brown 14–22 D Lloyd, J Coke, M Trigg, P Davies.

B Knight, M Matthews, J Crout, H Craven 22–26 B Hood, R Pickard, J Summers, A Thomas.

T Bishop, L Davies, J Davies, D Kuhnell 19–14 D James, D Jones, E Jones, D Rees.

G Solomon, W Vaughan, L Cundliffe, K Chedgzoy 24–10 D John, L Sparrow, M Hopkins, G Evans.

Final score: 79–72.

Cadoxton 'A' v Llantwit Major 'A' – SVL

CADOXTON 'A' ended their recent good form when they travelled to Llantwit Major and were comprehensively defeated, on all rinks.

The rink skipped by Mike Curtis trailed 5-0 after three ends, but a five on the seventh gave them an 8-7 lead.

However, they failed to score on the next six ends, which left them 10 shots down. An improvement over the remainder of the match reduced the deficit to five.

Roy Harding's four obtained a good advantage when a five took the score to 10-4, but this was overtaken over the following three ends and the home side continued to score for the rest of the match.

Derek Brook's rink never recovered from a 14–0 score-line after just four ends.

John Stewart was in contention for most of the game on his rink until seven shots were scored against one over the final five ends.

G Powell, J Maidment, I Dunbar, J Stewart 14–21 R Gray, M Jones, K Williams, E Sparks.

D Collard, S Clarke, R Cole, D Brook 13–33 E Lamb, M Mason, P Clarke, A Harvey.

K Tanner, D Tuck, A Turner, R Harding 17–25 T Wilkins, I K Alexander, R Harding, M Adams.

J Stacey, S Pycroft, G Garland, M Curtis 18–23 W Evans, K Morgan, P Twomey, E Hacker.

Final score: 97–45.

DK

Left to right: Simon Easterby, Sarra Elgan, Nigel Owens and Jonathan Davies.

SPORTING EVENING RAISES £3,000 FOR EISTEDDFOD 2012

All-star line-up helps kick off rugby forum in 'Scrum-V' style!

A RUGBY forum held at The Bear Hotel in Cowbridge last week proved to be an entertaining and enlightening event which raised more than £3,000 for the Vale of Glamorgan National Eisteddfod 2012.

The all-star panel of rugby greats – TV pundit Jonathan Davies, former Irish international Simon Easterby and current Welsh captain Matthew Rees – were kept in check by international referee Nigel Owens and ESPN rugby reporter Sarra Elgan.

Questions from the floor were plentiful and great banter ensued, with some carefully aimed digs by Nigel Owens.

The panellists, of course, gave as good as they got, resulting in amusing retorts and a wonderful ambience.

Siân-Elin Jones, from the Welsh St Donats area fundraising committee, said: "Thank you to everyone who contributed to the success of the evening. It was a wonderful line-up and a very enjoyable event."

Llwyddiant i'r fforwm rygbi

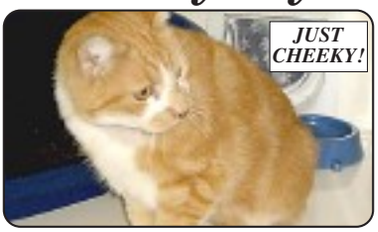
ROEDD fforwm rygbi a gynhaliwyd yng Ngwesty'r Bear yn Y Bont-faen nos Iau ddiwethaf (21 Mai) yn ddigwyddiad llwyddiannus a wnaeth godi dros £3,000 tuag at Eisteddfod Genedlaethol Bro Morgannwg 2012.

O dan reolaeth feistrolgar y dyfarnwr rhyngwladol Nigel Owens a sylwebydd rygbi ESPN Sarra Elgan mi wnaeth y panel o enwogion y byd rygbi – Jonathan Davies, Simon Easterby a Matthew Rees – roi atebion gonest a difyr i gwestiynau'r gynulleidfa.

Bu yna dipyn o dynnu coes o bryd i'w gilydd hefyd, gan greu awyrgylch hwylus iawn.

Dywedodd Siân-Elin Jones, ar ran pwyllgor apêl Llanddunwyd a'r cylch: "Diolch o galon i bawb wnaeth gefnogi'r digwyddiad a'i wneud yn un arbennig. Roedd gennym banelwyr o'r radd flaenaf ac roedd yn noson wych."

Cheeky boy!



JUST CHEEKY!

BRIDGEND Cat Adoption Centre (01656 726 621) would like GEM readers to meet Cheeky, a real cheeky chappie!

He is 14 years old but doesn't look or act it. He has recently had an operation but is now ready and waiting for a new home.

This time of year there are lots of kittens available so some of the older cats do get overlooked, please don't let this gent be one of them.

Meet William!

JUST WILLIAM!

THIS WEEK: William is a seven-year-old lurcher. He is a lovely boy, who just loves fuss and cuddles!

He would like to be the only dog in the home and he loves his food, and is very easy to train – he will be a delight with the right owner.

If you would like to offer William a home, visit the Dogs Trust at Court Colman, Pen-y-Fai, Bridgend, or call on 01656 725219. You can see William and some of his friends at www.dogstrust.org.uk

Classic cars on show at vehicle festival

Photographs by **GLYN EVANS**

Other pictures are available from this event.

Pictures can be purchased by contacting:
e-mail ffotoimage@tiscali.co.uk or www.ffotoimage.co.uk (telephone 01446 773225).
Visit our studio in the Wool Barn, Verity's Court, Cowbridge.

THERE were plenty of chances to see all manner of cars at the recent Pencoed Classic Car Show which took place at Pencoed Agricultural College.

From hot-rods to tractors, and even motorbikes, there was something for every conceivable car lover to admire!

Action-packed summer lies ahead for WI!

LLANBLETHIAN WI NEWS

THIS month was the resolutions discussion meeting, as for all WIs in Britain, but there was a certain amount of Institute business to be discussed first, and there is so much going on of a social and sporting nature that this took some time to transact!

Members will be going to Eardisley village festival this summer, to Blenheim Palace and to Leeds Castle. Lunch in a local brasserie, several craft competitions and coach trips to places of beauty and interest were among other social events planned before we turned our attention to discussion of this year's national Resolutions, to be formally debated in Liverpool this year.

There was a great deal of well-informed and heartfelt discussion on the two topics of mega farm development and closure of libraries.

The Resolutions which make it to final selection are always of interest and importance to members, but the challenge for selectors is to choose what also matters to the wider society – to 'home and country', as the original motto of the Women's Institute declares.

A musical quiz lightened the mood after tea and the competition was won by Connie Sanders with her pig.

Next month's meeting will take place at 7.30pm in the church hall as usual, for those of us not going on the Blenheim Palace trip.

GLT

V A NEWMAN GLASS QUIZ LEAGUE POSERS

Here are your four-for-thought:

1. Which explorer left England on the ship 'Endurance' in March 1914 in order to lead the British Transatlantic Expedition?

2. In 1998, who became the oldest woman to have a UK number one single?

3. Name the only golf course in Scotland to host a Ryder Cup match?

4. Which controversial female singer was arrested in the 1970s for withholding her taxes as a protest against the Vietnam War?

A RUDGE
(for quiz league

Answers:
1. Shackleton.
2. Cher.
3. Muirfield.
4. Nina Simone.

Messy crafts

ON May 31, the Berwyn Centre, Nantymoel, will hold a messy crafts afternoon for children up to 11.

All children under eight must be accompanied by a responsible adult at all times.

Tel: 01656 754915 or visit www.bridgend.gov.uk/berwyn for full details.

NEWS FROM LLANTWIT MAJOR CHESS CLUB

LLANTWIT MAJOR Chess Club would like to congratulate one of its younger members, Llewelyn Brown, on being selected to play in the Vale of Glamorgan versus Cardiff match – Well done, Llewelyn!

Llantwit Major Chess Club is based at Tabernacle Church, Methodist Lane and meets on Wednesday evenings from 7.15pm.

The club will not be meeting on June 1, as it is half-term, but restarts on Wednesday, June 8.

If anyone, of any age or ability, is interested in playing chess with us, then they are more than welcome to come along. For more details please contact Debbie on 01446 796208.
DC

AP Travel Ltd to the rescue!

The E11 service currently run by EST from Cowbridge to Talbot Green via Ystradowen and Llaharry will cease to run on Saturday May 28, but AP Travel have been successful in securing this service and say there will be little or no disruption or inconvenience to passengers.

"Fortunately for passengers on this service, AP Travel intend to run to the same timetable and ticket price with a view to applying to extend the timetable in the evenings. We look forward to welcoming existing and new passengers to their service," a spokesperson said.

WE ARE NOW ON FACEBOOK! Find us at facebook.com/gemnews

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Out and About with The GEM

JOHNNY DEPP SHINES IN WHAT IS AN OTHERWISE DULL PIRATE ADVENTURE

SCREEN TALK

by GARETH JAMIESON

FOR a film that breezed in like a breath of fresh air, there was something of a smell of dead fish by the time the third instalment of the *Pirates of the Caribbean* franchise set sail in 2007.

What had been exciting became cumbersome as the film became more concerned with the intricacies of storytelling, as opposed to creating thrills and excitement.

However, the financial side of things was more than rosy, leading to a predictable fourth outing hinted at the end of the third part.

This time round, the film, entitled *On Stranger Tides*, follows Captain Jack Sparrow (Johnny Depp) and Barbossa (Geoffrey Rush) on their quest for the fountain of youth – a quest that is threatened by the infamous Blackbeard (Ian McShane) and his daughter Angelica (Penelope Cruz), who have their own history with Sparrow...

Anyone expecting that this fourth instalment in the *Pirates*… franchise will take a radical departure from what has gone before will certainly feel let down, as On Stranger Tides is very much business as usual.

Sadly, the same applies to the overwrought narratives of the latter instalments and a general underwhelming feeling that means it is a case of 'same old' for a franchise looking as though its sea legs have been left on dry land.

Only the most sour-faced of people would deny the entertainment value of Johnny Depp as Jack Sparrow, and certainly the actor again delivers, the roguish character giving Depp plenty to play with.

However, even the most generous viewer would say that fourth time around the actor is starting to tread water ever so slightly, his performance made all the more entertaining by the lack of quality elsewhere.

While Geoffrey Rush offers a decent turn as Sparrow's nemesis Captain Barbossa (mainly because his character has actually developed as the films have gone on), Penelope Cruz fails to bring the requisite passion as Angelica – her chemistry with Depp falling flat, while Ian McShane is given little to work with as Blackbeard, managing to wring out a hint of dastardly nature, but little else.

Perhaps the finger pointing and plank-walking should be saved for Ted Elliott and Terry Rossio, the screenwriters who have been with franchise since day one.

The first film was dripping with derring-do and spectacle, but the latter two films found themselves weighed under by an unwieldy narrative.

While they really misstep with the introduction of two characters (Sam Claflin's Philip and Astrid-Berges-Frisbey's Syrena) whose subplot is dull in the extreme, there is so much double-crossing and narrative confusion going on that you spend most of your time wondering just who is doing what.

Coupled with Rob Marshall's direction, it does very little that Gore Verbinski's time in the director's chair didn't, and the end result is a film that while a step-up from the dull and dense sequels, is still a disappointing outing.

That even Johnny Depp is starting to look tired and ordinary as Captain Jack is a worrying sign, and if *On Stranger Tides* is to be the tipping point for more additions to the franchise, there is some serious work to be done.

VERDICT – A poor outing from a franchise that seemingly offered so much, *Pirates of the Caribbean: On Stranger Tides* is a weak effort all round, with even Johnny Depp's effervescent Captain Jack Sparrow slipping into the ensemble.

While it retains a level of spectacle that delivers the odd thrill, it very rarely soars higher, making this a disappointing return for these *Pirates*. *Poor*.

SEE THIS IF YOU LIKED: *Pirates of the Caribbean* franchise, *The Mask of Zorro*.

Cottrell Park hosts Armed Forces Day golf competition

Cottrell Park will be hosting their second Armed Forces Day golf competition on Wednesday, June 22, in support of the National Armed Forces Day.

The golf competition is open to all current serving Armed Forces Personnel, Reserve Forces, Veterans, Cadets and personnel working within the MOD.

The day will feature an individual competition, sponsored by the the Royal British Legion and a team competition consisting of teams of four players.

Both Cottrell Park golf courses (Mackintosh and Button) will be used concurrently for the competition with tee off times commencing at 12 noon.

The cost is £25 per person and will include coffee and bacon roll on arrival, 18 holes of golf and to finish the day off a hog roast buffet and prizes for the lucky winners.

The main organiser of the competition, Dave Morris, who is a retired army officer, said: "It is a real privilege to be involved in Armed Forces Day, I believe it is extremely important that we have a day to recognise, celebrate, and honour all our servicemen and women who serve and have served our country.

Anyone interested in taking part can log onto www.armedforcesday-wales.co.uk and follow the links to download the application form or contact Dave Morris on 01446772043 or email: davecptmorris@tiscali.co.uk.

CP

Napoleonic battle at Cosmeston!

THE next event at Cosmeston medieval village from May 29–30 takes visitors back to the 19th century when Britain fought Napoleonic France.

Cosmeston becomes a 'Spanish village' taken over by the maurauding French, but then with the roar of cannon, the crash of musket and glistening bayonet, the village is liberated by the Duke of Wellington's redcoats and green jacketed riflemen, as seen on the Sharpe television series.

Throughout the day, visitors will be able to see history come alive as Spanish peasants and freedom fighters, French soldiers and British redcoats show life as it was lived almost 200 years ago.

There will be cooking, drill displays, how to fire a musket and the site and smell and feel of French and British military camps.

The final event will be a battle as the British attempt to liberate the villagers!

Making faces exhibition

One of Christian John Olsen's 'Masks' series.

ARTIST Christian John Olsen's third Travellers Gallery one-man exhibition – 'Making Faces', is open from May 31 to July 7, mornings, Mondays to Fridays.

He explores two themes: Masks, looking at inherited family characteristics and Pretty Ugly, exploring the impact of the media on body self image.

For more information contact Mind in the Vale (Registered Charity no. 1066411) on 01446 730792, or visit www.mindinthevale.org.uk and www.voga.org.uk.

Blood donors

THE Welsh Blood Service (Gwasanaeth Gwaed Cymru) will be holding donor sessions in the area next month as follows:

JUNE 10: *Mobile donation Clinic, Tesco Stores, Castle Street, Maesteg – 10.45am-1.45pm and 3.15pm-6.30pm.*

To attend this session, it is advisable to make an appointment as these donors will take priority. Please call 01443 622193 or e-mail donor.appointments@wales.nhs.uk to make one.

JUNE 14: *Bedwas Hall, Memorial Hall, Gladstone Road, Barry – 10am-6pm.*

To view a comprehensive list of all the blood donation sessions, please visit www.welshblood.or.uk or call 0800 252266.

Ty Hafan lottery draw winners

THE following are winning numbers in the Ty Hafan Crackerjackpot lottery draw number D671.

● **The rollover, which now stands at £3,000, was not won this week.**

● **£2,000:** 525021.

● **£10:** 274199; 342026; 718520; 642869; 785739; 546307; 695061; 337848; 745724; 349128; 496124; 132591; 433631; 610079; 284046; 376921; 282293; 340675; 664139; 832429.

● **£5:** 513529; 625463; 871174; 951426; 608613; 143576; 459729; 378880; 800214; 598606; 403066; 728596; 700672; 299562; 287743; 283441; 515316; 752617; 457929; 786428; 223453; 820734; 976792; 617510; 625412; 563618; 621418; 181616; 171239; 262250; 585095; 766822; 834075; 315163; 851886; 171499; 431188; 329920; 100250; 906229; 394694; 521192; 729702; 178366; 592804; 255377; 629406; 117661; 114264; 523143; 877426; 126082; 369934; 588586; 584926; 195295; 515574; 688634; 867859; 358406.

The GEM cannot be held responsible for any errors or omissions contained in the above.

For lottery information please call telephone 02920 672062.

GOLDEN BALL

BRITISH HEART Foundation Cymru will be holding a 50th anniversary Golden Ball at Cardiff Castle on Saturday, June 25.

Contact fundraising manager Sharon Own on 02920 382408 or email owens@bhf.org.uk.

Broad Street & Boverton GARDEN CENTRES
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Election Anniversary Community Meetings

26th May	Wenvoe Community Centre	7.30 – 8.30pm
2nd June	St Brides Village Hall	8.00 – 9.00pm
3rd June	Lesser Hall, Cowbridge	5.30 – 6.45pm
	Llandow Village Hall	7.15 – 8.15pm
11th June	Community Hall, Peterstone-super-Ely	10.00 – 11.30am
	St Nicholas Village Hall	12.00 – 1.00pm
17th June	Lee Hall, Dinas Powys	5.30 – 7.00pm
	Llanfair Primary School	7.30 – 8.30pm
1st July	The Gathering Place, St Athan	5.00 – 6.30pm
2nd July	Llantonian Hall, Llantwit Major	11.00 – 12.30pm
8th July	Rhoose Community Centre	6.00 – 7.30pm
	Barley Mow, Graig Penllyn	8.00 – 9.00pm
19th July	Pendoylan Village Hall	6.00 – 7.00pm
	The Star Inn, Treoes	8.00 – 9.00pm
20th July	The Blacksmiths Arms, Llanmaes	6.30 – 7.30pm
	The Sycamore Tree, Colwinston	8.00 – 9.00pm
21st July	Oriel Room, Memorial Hall, Barry	6.30 – 8.00pm

Out and About with The GEM

ENJOY AN EVENING WITH MOZART IN ST HILARY CHURCH

The performers who will be celebrating the genius of Mozart at St Hilary Church.

ON Sunday, June 12 at 7pm, St Hilary Church choir are joining senior students from the Royal Welsh College of Music and Drama to celebrate the genius of Mozart.

In a concert of inspired choral and instrumental music, Rebecca Sands, Grace Wain, Eleias Roberts and Christian Jenkins, star students from the college's opera course, will be soloists in the magnificent *Coronation Mass*, and Jennifer Wright on the French horn has chosen the most famous of Mozart's concertos for her instrument, the fourth.

The concert, to be held at St Hilary Church, also includes perennial favourites *Ave Verum Corpus, Rondo a la Turka*, and the *Musical Joke*.

Tickets can be obtained in Cowbridge from Sorrento, WG Davies, David Barnes Dry Cleaners and members of the choir.

Solo piece dedicated to Porthceri

LOCAL musician and sound artist Chris Young performs his solo piece 'AcouChristo' in the Porthceri Centre on May 27-28.

The piece, especially written for the Porthceri Centre space, will begin at 8.30pm to allow the gathering darkness to give the lighting its full effect.

Entry is free but donations to the Porthceri Centre are welcome.

A spokesman for the Porthceri Centre group said: "We decided to go ahead with the performance in the centre, even though the building has been sold.

"We want to assure the community that we're going ahead with our plans for an arts and Welsh-language centre and are bidding for the URC Windsor Road building.

"Chris has been associated with the group and we were thrilled that he has written something so special to us as part of his Masters final showcase – he's a very talented guy!"

PACT meetings

BUTTRILLS PACT, *June 6 in the Philip John Community Room, Barry Library at 6.30pm.*

ST BRIDES PACT, *St Brides Church Hall, June 8 at 6pm.*

YSTRADOWEN Coffee & Chat, *the White Lion public house, June 7 at 11.30am.*

PLYMOUTH PACT, *Brockhill Way Community Centre, June 1 at 7pm.*

SULLY PACT, *the Williams Room of the Old School, South Road, June 13 at 7pm.*

What's on and where?

Rhoose meeting

RHOOSE and District History Society will meet at 6.30pm this Friday (May 27) in Rhoose Community Hall, preceded by the AGM, when paid-up members will vote for a new committee to include president, chairman, secretary, treasurer, programme secretary, events secretary and archivist.

This month's speaker will be Mr Ron Powell, who will give a talk at 7.30pm, entitled 'The Charge of the Light Brigade'.

Entrance to the meeting will be £1 for adults, which will include a raffle ticket. Visitors welcome. Membership is £4 per annum.

Joshua night

ON Saturday (May 28) Laura Owens and Hannah Yarr, pupils at Bryn Hafren Comprehensive, are hosting a charity night to raise funds towards the 'Oz Experience', a project run by the Joshua Foundation, to provide young people with the opportunity to change the lives of children with terminal cancer.

It will be held at the Café Continental, Barry Island. Music will be provided by local band The Anderson Connection, and, for one night only, a special variety act by Kevin Owens and Haydn Stait – not to be missed.

Anyone interested in donating anything to the raffle or bidding on the auction should contact Neil on 07828 714845.

Parachute drop

THE final countdown has begun to a sponsored Teddy Bear parachute jump at St Cadoc's Church, Cadoxton, Barry, on Sunday (May 29) at 2pm.

There will be a prize for the best dressed child's and adult's bear.

Proceeds will go to the Samaritan's Purse Operation Christmas child shoebox appeal.

Beach clean

BARRY-BASED environmental group 'Friends of Barry Beaches' will meet for a beach clean at the Watchtower Bay on May 30 at 3pm (by the Watchtower roundabout) for one hour cleaning the beach.

At the April beach clean on Knap Beach, eight bags of recycling and five bags of rubbish were collected by 17 volunteers.

Thrift shop

THE Thrift Shop, Woodpecker Square, St Athan, will be closed for the half-term school holidays from 1.30pm on May 30 to 10am on June 6.

Charity flower arranging night

COWBRIDGE and District Flower Arrangers Club's next demonstration is by Beryl Griffiths.

It takes place in Cowbridge Town Hall on Wednesday, June 1, at 7.30pm.

Doors open from 6.30pm to 7.15pm. Tickets (£6) are available at the door, and there is a raffle of arrangements in aid of Ty Hafan.

CAOS scoop!

LLANTWIT Major is set to meet the West End after Cowbridge Amateur Operatic Society secured the rights to perform a lost gem by Tim Rice and Andrew Lloyd Webber.

The musical show tells the story of Dr Barnardo and his work to rescue children living on the streets.

Curtain up is on June 1-4 at 7.30pm (Saturday matinee, 2.30pm) in Llantwit Major Comprehensive School.

Contact www.cowbridgeaos.org.uk or telephone 01446 773169.

Valeways walks

ON Sunday, June 5, at 2.30pm, 'From St Tydfil's to Agatha Christie' starting from St Tydfil's Church, Llysworney (map ref SS 962 741).

On Monday, June 6 at 7pm, parks and cliffs, starting from All Saints Church, Park Road, Barry.

Thursday, June 9 at 1.30pm, Cwm George mystery trail, starting from St Peter's Church, Mill Road, Dinas Powys; 7pm-9.15pm, inland from Llantwit Major (extended walk, flat and easy), starting from Llantwit Major Railway Station car park.

Age Concern coffee morning

AGE Concern's Western Vale Good Neighbour Scheme is holding its annual coffee morning on June 9 at the Llantonian Hall, Boverton Road, Llantwit Major from 10am-12pm.

Admission is £1.50 and includes coffee, tea and biscuits – plus top-ups. there will be a variety of stalls, from home-made cakes, bric-a-brac, plants and a raffle. Proceeds go towards the Good Neighbour Scheme, based at 1 Commercial Street, Llantwit Major.

Telephone 01446 795549/795632 for further information.

Legion benefit

THE Mayor of the Vale, Coun John Clifford, is hosting a garden party on June 10 to mark the Royal British Legion's 90th birthday in the marquee at Dyffryn Gardens from 2pm-5pm.

Tickets are £7.50 each, which will include afternoon tea and entry to the gardens. Proceeds to the British Legion.

Contact the Mayor's office on 01446 709301.

Tell us what's on and where in your area - email ***gemeditorial@tindlenews.co.uk***

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Friday 3rd June, 7.30pm

PIAF ~ the songs

Eve Loiseau sings the songs of Edith Piaf with Eddy Jay, accordion and Fiona Barrow, fiddle

COMPETITION

in conjunction with

Glamorgan GEM

3 lucky readers to win a pair of FREE TICKETS

(valued at £32 per pair)

JUST ANSWER THE FOLLOWING QUESTION CORRECTLY:

WHAT NATIONALITY WAS EDITH PIAF?

A) German B) Dutch C) French

Please e-mail your answer to

enquiries@stdonats.com

no later than Tuesday 31st May

Box Office: 01446 799100
Minicom: 01446 799102
enquiries@stdonats.com
On-line booking
www.stdonats.com
St Donats Arts Centre, St Donats Castle, Vale of Glamorgan CF61 1WF

St Donats Arts Centre

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LIVE ENTERTAINMENT

BANK HOLIDAY WEEKEND

Friday 27th May
Live Entertainment

Saturday 28th May
The Sunsets - Rock N Roll Band plus Bingo

Sunday 29th May
Jeff Alvey Award winning Comedian followed by Disco

Sunday Roast £6.95
in the Ocean Lounge Bar
Choice of meats, Seasonal Vegetables,
Home-made desserts from only £1.99
Booking Advisable

CAR BOOT SALE
EVERY SUNDAY from 2pm and
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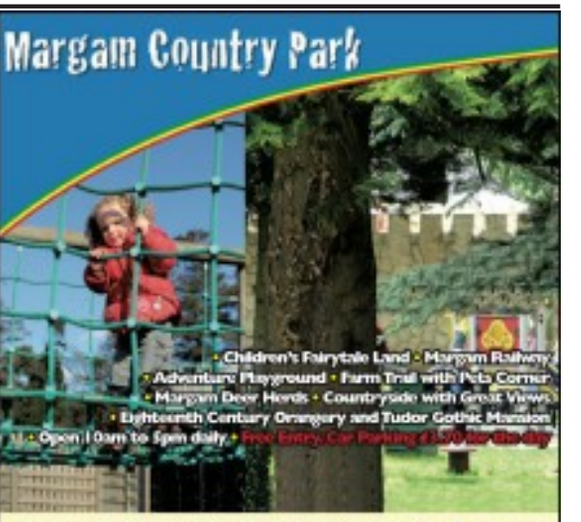
Margam Country Park



Monday, 30th May Bank Holiday, Pirates and Princesses Family Fun Day

Shiver me timbers'! Join in with the pirates and princesses. Pirate shows, princess storytelling and meet our very own Captain Jack Sparrow. Don't forget to come in your best pirate and princess costumes. A great family day out. Adults £5.50, children and OAPs £4.50, family (2+3) £20.

Full programme of half term family activities, check the park web pages for a full list:

Saturday 4th-Sunday 5th June – Margam Kite Festival and Margam Model Boat Club Show

The Kite Festival of Wales – Bring your kite along and join in the fun! Kites of all shapes and sizes.

FREE Family Activity days for the school summer holidays

www.margamcountrypark.co.uk

The fun never stops at Margam Country Park!

Situations Vacant

Sensory Garden Co-ordinator

Location: Drop In Centre, 3 Dunlin Court, Barry.
Salary: £15,000 per annum
Hours: 30 hours per week

Brief description of post:
To co-ordinate and support work of community volunteers engaged in Sensory Garden activities inclusive of any training needs and to collaborate with partner agencies in the promotion of the garden as a resource for learning and environmental awareness.

To provide support to the Sensory Garden Management Group in the development of the overall aims and objectives of the garden.

Closing date: **9th June 2011**
Interview date: To be advised

For an informal chat and/or application pack please contact:
Eileen Moore
Drop In Centre 01446 403549

Please note: This post may be subject to Criminal Records Bureau check

Please return completed application forms to the Sensory Garden Management Group at the Drop In Centre, 3 Dunlin Court, Barry. CF63 4JY

Registered Charity No: 1137100
Registered Company No: 06920156

Cydlynudd Gardd Synhwyraidd

Lleoliad: Drop In Centre, 3, Dunlin Court Barry.
Cyflog: £15,000 y flwyddyn
Oriau: 30 awr yr wythnos

Disgrifiad byr o'r swydd:
I cydlynu a cefnogi gwirfoddolwyr cymunedol sydd I'w wneud a'r ardd. Yn cynnwys anghenion hyfforddiant, delio a asiantaethau mewn partneriaeth I hybu'r ardd fel adnodd I ddysgu ag I godi ymwybyddiaeth yr amgylchedd.

I roi cymorth I Grwp Rheoli Gardd Synhwyraidd er mwyn ei ddatblygu I cyfarfod yr amcanion

Dyddiad Cau: **9th Mehefin 2011**
Dyddiad Cyfweliad: I'w drefnu

Am sgwrs anffurfiol a/neu ffurflen gais cysylltwch a:
Eileen Moore
Drop In Centre 01446 403549

Nodwch: Fe all yr apwyntiad yma ddibynu ar archwiliad Criminal Records Bureau.

Ffurflenni gais I'w ddychwelyd i: Grwp Rheoli Gardd Synhwyraidd, Drop In Centre, 3 Dunlin Court, Barry, CF63 4JY

Centre Manager

Location: Castleland Community Centre, Belvedere Crescent, Barry.

Office Base: 3 Dunlin Court, Barry

Salary: £17,000 per annum

Hours: 37 hours per week

Brief description of post:
To undertake day to day management of the community centre inclusive of line management to centre staff. To work with relevant partner agencies in support of activities for the benefit of centre users

Closing date: **9th June 2011**
Interview date: To be advised

For an informal chat and/or application pack please contact:
Eileen Moore
Drop In Centre
01446 403549

Please note: This post may be subject to Criminal Records Bureau check

Please return completed application forms to Castleland Community Association C/O Drop In Centre, 3 Dunlin Court, Barry, CF63 4JY

Registered Charity No: 517883

Rheolwr Ganolfan

Lleoliad: Canolfan Cymunedol Castleland, Belvedere Crescent, Barry.

Safle Swyddfa: 3 Dunlin Court, Barry

Cyflog: £17,000 y flwyddyn

Oriau: 37 awr yr wythnos

Disgrifiad byr o'r swydd:
I rheoli'r ganolfan gymunedol o dydd I ddydd, yn cynnwys rheoli gweithwyr, gweithio mewn partneriaeth efo asiantaethau perthnasol eraill er mwyn lles y ganolfan a'I defnyddwyr.

Dyddiad Cau: **9th Mehefin 2011**
Dyddiad Cyfweliad: I'w drefnu

Am sgwrs anffurfiol a/neu ffurflen gais cysylltwch a:
Eileen Moore
Cadeirydd
01446.403549

Nodwch: Fe all yr apwyntiad yma ddibynu ar archwiliad Criminal Records Bureau

Ffurflenni gais I'w ddychwelyd i: Castleland Community Association C/O Drop In Centre, 3 Dunlin Court, Barry, CF63 4JY

Casual Funeral Directors Assistants required

25 years or over, full driving licence, previous experience preferred but not essential.

Please send CV with covering letter to Lyndsay J Ellis, Park Independent Funeral Directors, 7 Tynewydd Road, Barry CF62 8HB, or telephone 01446 421212 for further information

ST. ATHAN METHODIST CHURCH

requires an enthusiastic

Community Centre Manager

12 hours per week (£8 per hour) fixed term appointment for 2 years.

Responsible for planning, budgeting, grounds maintenance and social facilities for The Gathering Place.

Must be organised, confident with good oral, written and electronic communication skills, flexible and supportive of the Christian centre.

Send CV via email to dot.connell@virgin.net or call **01446 744914** for more information.

Closing date: 12.00 noon 9th June 2011

Vale of Glamorgan Methodist Grant Charity No. 1133044

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cowbridge-today.co.uk
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porthcawl-today.co.uk
bridgend-today.co.uk

Property

TO LET
Barry Town Centre

Rooms available in shared house. Starting from £60 per week. DSS accepted.
Tel: 07896 013563

TO LET
Llantwit Major
Double Room & Single Room

To Let in modern 3 bedroom house. All utilities inc. phone shared, WiFi.
Call 07740 187613

Public Notice

PUBLIC NOTICE LICENSING ACT 2003

To whom it may concern

I, **Sian Thomas George** do hereby give notice that I have applied to the Licensing Authority (Vale of Glamorgan Council) for the variation of a Premises Licence at **Plough & Harrow, Monknash, Cowbridge, CF71 7QQ** known as **Plough & Harrow Public House.**

The application is to vary the licence, change of name and designated premises supervisor and change of opening hours.

Any persons wishing to make representations to this application may do so by writing to the Licensing Department, Vale of Glamorgan Council, Civic Offices, Holton Road, Barry CF63 4RU not later than 28 days after the date of this notice.

Representations received after this date will not be considered.

A copy of this application can be viewed at the Civic Offices during norrmal office hours.

It is an offence knowingly or recklessly to make a false statement in connection with this application, the maximum fine on summary conviction being £5,000.

Signed S. Thomas George
Date: 24th May, 2011

TO LET BRIDGEND

Modern Industrial/ Storage/Workshops
Rents from £150 per week
07850 204481

TO LET BARRY ISLAND

Luxury two bedroom loft style apartment within easy access of beach and parks. Sea views. Fully furnished, secure parking. Entry phone system. Bond & references required. No DSS - Over 26 only.

£525pcm
Tel: 07912 138342

Sited Containers in Secure Yard

20ft x 8ft for rent
£20 per week,
Barry Docks area.
Also furnished office at premises £15 per week
Tel: 07966 531506

Family Notices

Cecil ENGLAND

The family of the late Cecil England would like to thank the Cowbridge community for their support and messages of sympathy following Cecil's death, at the age of 95, on May 7.

Cecil lived in Cowbridge for almost 50 years and during this time was involved in many community organisations including Rotary, Probus, the Bowling Club, the History Society, the Gardening Club, Friends of Dyffryn and the Physic Garden.

Cecil's contribution to these organisations and the friends he made in Cowbridge enriched his life.

He will be sadly missed.

HOUSE
Beryl Mary

Peacefully on May 17 at The Court Care Home, St Fagans, Beryl, formerly of Porthcawl.

Beloved wife of the late Alex, dearly-loved sister of the late Emlyn and Jack Williams of Wenvoe, will be sadly missed by all her family.

Resting at the Private Funeral Home of W James & Sons, Fonmon. Funeral Wednesday June 1, service and cremation 2.15pm at Coychurch Crematorium, Bridgend. No flowers by request, donations in lieu if desired to the Stroke Association, c/o Mrs C James, 11 Fonmon Road, Rhoose CF62 3DZ.

Avril Rose GARRETT
(née Cridland)

Karen and Michael, the daughter and son of Avril Rose Garrett, who passed away on April 24, would like to express our gratitude for the kindness shown to us after the death of our mother.

We have been overwhelmed by the support we have received, messages of condolence and the donations to the Marie Curie hospice in Penarth.

Many who knew her have conveyed to us that she was an honourable and respected lady, who always had a smile on her face and this makes us proud to have called her our mother.

Special thanks to the members of Tabernacle, Llanilltud Fawr, who she always referred to as her other family. Tabernacle have always been there with support and sound advice for us.

We are also very grateful to William James and Son, Fonmon, who arranged the funeral service.

Her deep faith in God remained until the end, and she died with dignity. Interment will be at Tabernacle, Llanilltud Fawr.

Rest in peace, Mam.
Diolch o galon i bawb.

LOADER
Bernard George

On May 22, 2011 at the Princess of Wales Hospital, Bernard, loving husband of Carol, much loved father and grandfather, will be sadly missed by all family and friends.

Funeral Service at Holy Cross Church Cowbridge on Wednesday, 1 June 2011 at 11am, followed by private cremation. Family flowers only, donations in lieu to the British Lung Foundation (BLF), 73-75 Goswell Road, London, EC1B 7ER.

Funeral Directors

W. A. Brown & Son
Funeral Directors

Contactable 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

• Funeral pre-payment plans • Memorial masonry

Llantwit Major 01446 792489
Pembroke House, College Street

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INDEPENDENT FUNERAL DIRECTORS

PRIVATE CHAPEL OF REST
PRE-PAID FUNERAL PLAN AVAILABLE

54 MAIN STREET, CADOXTON
Telephone 01446 420520

Cadoxton Funeral Home

Reverend William Jenkin FIELD (Bill)

Peacefully at home on May 18, 2011, William, beloved husband of Catherine, much-loved father of Carole and son-in-law Jack, cherished Gramps of Peter and Tracey, Catherine and Alun, also a loved Grampa BO to Spencer, Stephen and Stephanie.

Bill will be sadly missed by all his family and friends.

Resting at James Summers and Son, Lavernock Court, Penarth, until the funeral service on May 27, 2011, at All Saints Church, Barry at 10am, followed by interment at Llancarfan Churchyard. Family flowers only, but donations in lieu if so desired for Marie Curie Cancer Hospice, Penarth c/o the funeral home.

Birthdays

Happy 21st Birthday
29th May, 2011
JAMES AUSTIN
Have a nice day!
Lots of love, Nanny Mavis and Grampa Fred. *XXX*

Thank You

Tina & Derek Rowlands

would like to thank their children, grandchildren, family and friends for making their Ruby Wedding Anniversary such a happy and memorable occasion.

Once again, thank you for your cards and presents.

Articles For Sale

Smeg Dishwasher

Free standing, stainless steel, complete with waste. Buyer to collect £100 ono.
Tel: 01446 710778
(20/21)

TENT

Easy Camp Selerno Sleeps 6, unused £80 ono.
Beko Dishwasher
Hardly used £95 ono
Tel: 01446 776834
(20/21)

Brooks Stairlift

Fits any typical straight staircase. 4 months old as new. Price includes delivery and installation by Acorn engineer.
£1,000
Tel: 01446 792095
(19/20)

Fluval Aquarium

100cm x 40cm, with stand, filter pump, heat lamps etc. Immaculate
£295 ono
Trampoline With safety encl, 12ft, as new **£175 ono**
Tel: 01446 776834
(20/21)

Pine Corner Vanity Unit

with basin & taps - **£120 ono**
Ducal pine drinks cabinet with three drawers - **£80 ono**
Beautiful pieces of Priory furniture at various prices, please ring for further details
Tel. 01656 861557
(20/21)

Bosch Larder Fridge

H 85cm x W 55cm
Depth 62cm
Good as new £50.
Ikea Odda Corner
Single Bed plus underbed, mattresses included **£100**.
Buyer collects.
Tel: 01446 711305(20/21)

Lost & Found

LOST

TEIFI DRIVE, BARRY
Black & White Male Cat
Missing since 19th May 2011.
Tel: 01446 747697

OAK TABLE

30 inches long, 48 inches wide, drop sides, buyer collects.
£45
Tel. 01446 710573
(20/21)

LLANTWIT MAJOR CAVALIERS CRICKET ROUND-UP

Cavs notch up an excellent league victory over Panteg

THE Llantwit Major Cavaliers travelled to Panteg for their fourth fixture in the Glamorgan and Monmouthshire Sunday League.

Mark Coldwell won the toss and elected to bat first. Unfortunately, the Cavs lost a wicket in the opening over but recovered to score 45 runs off the first eight, before the second wicket fell when Jono Cheal (15) was bowled by Hatchley.

Mark Coldwell (27) followed 10 runs later when he was adjudged lbw to Hatchley, giving the bowler his third wicket of the game.

James Snelson (22) became the fourth batsman to be dismissed in the 15th over when the score was on 78.

Mark Dowling (33) and Tom Gingell (29) hit 58 runs in 13 overs before Mark was bowled by B Gunana.

Tom then put on 19 runs with Andrew Williams (11) before being stumped off the bowling of Gunana with the score on 164.

After tea, the Cavs set about defending their total with father and son Dave Cheal (0 for 27 off 10 overs) and Jono Cheal (3 for 33 off 9 overs) tying Panteg down in the opening overs, as Jono bowled Hatchley (4) and caught and bowled M Collins (12) with the Panteg score crawling to 51 off the opening 16 overs.

Tom Gingell pounced for a fine runout when he removed Salkfield (25) with a direct hit. Mark Dowling (3 for 12) and James Snelson (3 for 26) reduced Panteg to 90 for 8 by the 34th over and Jono Cheal finished the match when he bowled the last man with the score on 131.

This was a fine performance in the field by the Cavs, who will be looking for much of the same when they entertain Barry Athletic next Sunday.

GOOD VICTORY FOR SECONDS

The Llantwit Cavs Second XI played host to Abertillery at Windmill Lane and owe many thanks to Dave Russell for actually managing to get a team together with so many club players unavailable.

Dave was called up to the first team so Phil Harris, the previous second team captain took the reins for the day.

Winning the toss, he had no hesitation in bowling first and giving Abertillery first use of the wicket.

Opening bowlers Dave Cheal (10-5-23-0) and Andrew Williams (8-4-16-1) bowled well to restrict Abertillery to 45 runs off 19 overs with Andrew notching a fine runout with a direct hit when the score was on eight, and having C Lewis (17) caught behind by Phil Vincent when the score was on 43.

Kieran Davies (9-0-38-1) and Phil Harris (10-2-32-3) carried on where the opening bowlers left off as the Abertillery score progressed to 115 for 6 after 37 overs.

Phil got his wickets through the aid of a catch by Pete Lansdown, bowling the next batsman a few runs later and taking a fine caught and bowled; one of four caught and bowled to be taken that day by the Cavs. Kieran and Gareth Hughes (5-3-11-2) with two took the other honours.

The Abertillery innings closed on 146 for 8 after 45 overs.

After another fine tea, the two Cavs openers took to the field eager to set about the run chase.

Unfortunately, a wicket fell first ball, with the next going on 35, closely followed on 41 when opener Pete Lansdown (22) was adjudged lbw to M Doel (10-3-39-2) in the 12th over.

Gareth Hughes (25) and Phil Vincent took the score to 84 before Gareth was caught off the bowling of S Davies (7-0-22-1).

Tim Bunce (26) then joined Phil at the wicket and they took the Cavs to the brink of victory, when Tim was caught off the bowling of M Greaves with the score on 139.

Phil (36 not out) hit the winning boundaries as the Cavs won in the 39th over, gaining 24 points in the process.

This was an excellent display from the Cavs who were a lot better in the catching department this week, and they will be looking to take the same form into next week's game, when they visit Pencoed in a Division One double header.

The First XI game at Cefn Fforest was abandoned at the tea interval; the Cavs had restricted the home team to 184 for 8 after 45 overs, the last 10 being played in persistent rain.

Top scorers were S Francis (49) and C Lowther (41 not out), with the wicket takers for the Cavs being James Snelson (3 for 26), Jono Cheal (3 for 37), Mike Wood (1 for 31) and Sam Pickford (1 for 46).

The Cavs would like to thank their sponsors Brewin Dolphin, Engineering Services (Bridgend) LTD, Simons Plaice and Coast Tapas Bar for their much appreciated sponsorship of the club.

DC

Vale under-11s make it to national semi-final

THE Vale of Glamorgan Schools under-11s rugby team travelled to Broadacre, home of Dunvant RFC, Swansea to compete in the national seven-a-side competition.

Playing in a group of three other teams with 10 minutes per game on decreased size pitches, it was evident any scores were going to be vital in this competition.

They started very well, beating Pontypool by three tries to nil, scored by Bevan Howell, Rhys Bradshaw and Rhydian Williams, with all 10 squad players getting on and helping the team cause.

The next opponents were Pontypridd who were beaten by one try to nil, scored by Rhydian Williams with two tacklers on his back.

A close fought match of 1–1 against Pembroke schools, with a try scored by Bevan Howell, ensured that Vale schools won their group and proceeded to the quarter finals of the Glyn Davies Cup to meet Rhondda schools.

In a close encounter, Vale schools won by two tries to nil, scored by Rhydian and Rhys.

Cardiff schools were next in the semi final and they won by 2–1, with the Vale's try by Bevan Howell.

The Vale team can be very proud with themselves to have got through to the last four teams in Wales. Well done from all coaches, parents and other supporters.

Vale squad: Joe Williams, Bevan Howell, Rhys Durlucia, Rhydian Williams, Sam Corkhill, Jake Griffiths, Jac Roberts, Max Cunnington, Rhys Bradshaw, Ioan Lewis.

DW

Past captains welcomed to Southerndown GC

Mrs Adela Smith (treasurer), Mrs Mary Burke (secretary), captain Gloria Mynott and Mrs Frances Rees of Southerndown Golf Club.

SOUTHERNDOWN Golf club recently welcomed the Cardiff & Vale Ladies past captains to their spring meeting, where they enjoyed an excellent lunch and a course in wonderful condition.

Mrs Nicola Hughes, who is the immediate past lady captain of the host club, won the President's Salver, kindly donated by Mrs Joan Collinge.

FR

APPLICATION DEADLINE: 5:00PM 1 June 2011

homes4u HOTLINE
01446 709840
01446 704316

To apply call the hotline, e-mail us at
HOMES4U@valeofglamorgan.gov.uk
or apply in writing to:
Vale of Glamorgan Council
Legal, Public Protection and Housing Department
Civic Offices Holton Road, Barry CF63 4RU or
Newydd Housing Association
121 Broad Street, Barry CF62 7AL

ARTHUR DAVIES COURT, BARRY

H4U Reference 1039867
Suit for a single person or couple over 55 – no pets
- Studio apartment
- First floor (no lift)
- Gas central heating
- Double glazing
- Warden/parking
- Communal entrance

Rent £99.73 per week including service charge

AWBERY HOUSE, BARRY (2)

H4U Reference 201276
Suitable for a single person, couple or family - no pets
- 2 x Two-bedroom flats
- First and second floors
- Lift available
- Central heating
- Double glazing

Rent £79.13 per week including service charges

BROUGHTON PLACE, BARRY

H4U Reference 202610
Suitable for a family
- Three-bed house
- Central heating
- Double-glazing
- Gardens

Rent £90.10 per week including water charges

CWRT EIRLYS, BARRY

H4U reference 1069869
Suitable for a small family
- Two-bedroom house
- Central heating
- Double glazing
- Gardens

Rent £75.50 per week

EDWARD STREET, BARRY

H4U reference 208534
Suit. for a single person or couple - no pets
- One bedroom flat
- Ground floor
- Central heating
- Double glazing

Rent £90.10 per week including water charges

ELIZABETH AVENUE, BARRY

H4U Reference 209175
Suitable for a family
- Three-bedroom house
- Central heating
- Double-glazing
- Gardens

Rent £89.82 per week including water charges

ELIZABETH AVENUE, BARRY

H4U Reference 209216
Suitable for a family with 4+ children
- Four-bedroom house
- Central heating
- Double-glazing
- Gardens

Rent £92.44 per week including water charges

GLYNDWR ROAD, BARRY

H4U Reference 251477
Suitable for a family
- Three-bedroom flat
- Upstairs
- Central heating
- Double-glazing
- Gardens

Rent £78.12 per week including service charges

HANOVER COURT, BARRY

H4U Reference 1069905
Suitable for a single person or couple over 60 (55 with medical need)
- One-bedroom flat
- First floor
- Central heating
- Double-glazing
- Manager and alarm

Rent £68.54 per week including service charges

HAYES ROAD, SULLY

H4U reference 1069870
Suitable for a small family
- Two-bedroom house
- Gas central heating
- Double glazing
- Enclosed gardens

Rent £71.72 per week including service charges

LALESTON CLOSE, BARRY

H4U reference 214168
Suitable for a family
- Two-bedroom house
- Central heating
- Double glazing
- Gardens

Rent £89.96 per week including water charges

LLANDINAM ROAD, BARRY

H4U Reference 251568
Suit. for a family (not with mobility needs)
- Three-bedroom flat
- Ground floor (steps)
- Central heating
- Double-glazing
- Gardens

Rent £78.12 per week including service charges

MERTHYR DYFAN ROAD, BARRY

H4U Reference 216192
Suitable for a family
- Two bedroom house
- Central heating
- Double glazing
- Gardens

Rent £87.45 per week including water charges

PARDOE CRESCENT, BARRY

H4U Reference 219170
Suitable for a single person or couple over 55 (not with mobility needs)
- One-bedroom bungalow
- Central heating
- Double glazing
- Gardens
- Community alarm

Rent £79.42 pw including water and alarm charges

THOMAS COURT, BARRY

H4U Reference 1062119
Suitable for a single person or couple with mobility needs over 40
- One-bedroom flat
- Ground floor
- Gas central heating
- Double-glazing
- Parking

Rent £70.11 per week including service charge

TY GWENFO, BARRY

H4U Reference 975982
Suitable for a single person over 40
- One-bedroom flat
- First floor (no lift)
- Gas central heating
- Double-glazing
- Parking

Rent £71.02 per week including service charge

Are you a council tenant? Are you looking to move into smaller accommodation?

If you are a single person or couple occupying a two, three or four-bedroom house, you may be eligible to join the Incentive to Move scheme.

If you are willing to downsize into a smaller (one-bedroom) property, and are eligible to move, as part of the scheme we will:

- assist you through the key stages of your move;
- arrange and carry out removals for you;
- advise whether you can claim back necessary costs, such as disconnection and reconnection of services (up to £500); and
- advise whether you could qualify for a cash incentive to move of up to £2000.

If you are interested, and would like to know more, call the **HOMES4U Hotline 01446 709840.**

You must be a HOMES4U member to apply for any of these homes.

When bidding for more than one property you will be asked to state your order of preference. All descriptions and other details are given in good faith and are believed to be correct but any potential tenant should satisfy themselves as to their correctness.

Newydd is a charitable housing association

FEEDBACK

Address	Bids	Band	Reg.
Cowslip Drive	123	Gold	05/05/10
Cwrt Malin Y Rhos	35	Silver+	11/04/11
St Baruchs Court	14	Bronze	22/04/11
Ty Gwenfo	20	Silver	05/07/10
Philippa Freeth Ct	12	Gold+	06/04/11
Westbury Close	67	Gold	31/01/11

Are you having difficulty paying your rent? Are bills getting too much?

The Vale of Glamorgan is offering a new Money Advice service for council tenants.

To make an appointment to see a Money Advisor, call 01446 709312 or ask at Housing Reception.

HomeSwapper

Mallory Close, St Athan
2 Double Bedrooms
End Of Link House
No Onward Chain
Call Simon 01446 791963
£94,999

Eagleswell Road, Llantwit Major
3 Bedrooms
Middle Link House
Updating Required
Call Simon 01446 791963
£105,000

Walnut Grove, St Athan
3 Bedrooms Plus Attic Room
Well Proportioned
Conservatory
Call Simon 01446 791963
£121,950

Chris Davies

Pantycelyn Place, St Athan
3 Bedrooms
End Of Link Home
21' Lounge/Diner
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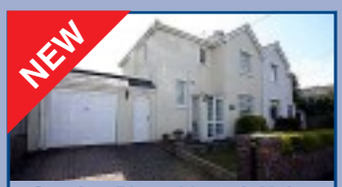

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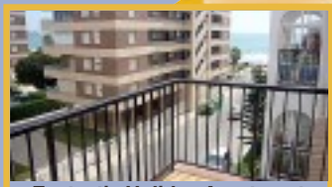

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Cottrell Park ladies enjoy testing away day

The winning team receive their prizes.

The runners-up with their prizes.

THE ladies of Cottrell Park enjoyed their visit to the Bowood Golf Resort, for the Lady Captain's away day on Monday, May 16.

The day remained dry but there was a blustery wind which made the conditions a little difficult. The course was long, with numerous bunkers, which made it extremely challenging.

A team Stableford was played, together with an individual Stableford for the Miss Button trophy. The team competition was won by Sara Williams, Tina Morgan and Jayne James, and second were Jeanette Williams, Angela Padfield, and Chris Evans.

The Miss Button trophy was won by Sara Williams, and runner-up was Bridget Roberts.

Nearest the pin was Sandra Collin and the longest drive (handicap 0-26) was Kay Bradbury, (handicap 27-36) was Jan Cosby.

The prizes were presented by Jenny McGlyne (lady captain) ably assisted by Mary Watkins (competition secretary).

Jenny McGlyne was thanked for her excellent organisation of the day. The ladies returned home tired but happy after a very enjoyable outing. **CB**

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Cowbridge under-8s brave the rainstorm

YOUNG PLAYER'S SUCCESS!

LEFT: Jake Williams pictured with the player of the tournament trophy

Cowbridge under-8 Cowboys squad

COWBRIDGE under-8s played in the Kidwelly RFC tournament earlier this month and took two teams – the Cowboys and the Indians.

The Cowbridge Cowboys started their games against home team Kidwelly Ambers. Though there was a considerable amount of excellent running rugby, defences came out on top, with the game ending in a nil-nil stalemate.

In the second game, they beat Fishguard Seagulls by three tries to one with Jake Williams scoring two tries and Charlie Locke one.

Charlie's try followed an excellent, passing movement and both of Jake's tries were the result of his ability to take short passes at pace and then run at superb angles. The Seagulls' try was a consolation in the last move of the game.

The third game saw the boys defeat Skewen by three tries to nil, though the win followed excellent defence to keep Skewen out at the beginning. David Harris scored two tries and Jake one.

In the last group game, the Cowboys lost by five tries to one to Carmarthen Quins, though this was not at all representative of how the boys played during the course of the game. Jake again scored an excellent individual try. Notwithstanding this loss, the boys progressed to the semi-finals of the main competition having been the runners-up in their group.

In horrendous conditions, they played the winners of the other group, Crymych, in the semi-final. Though the game was even in the first five minutes, Jake Williams scored two tries and despite Crymych pulling one back, this was enough to enable the Cowboys to get through to their first final.

There was, literally, a bit of a dampener on it as the heavens opened and May's rainfall fell in the space of about half an hour, causing everybody connected with the Cowbridge teams to huddle under a quickly erected gazebo.

None of this affected the boys' spirits and they were extremely unlucky to lose the final, which was a superb game, to Carmarthen Quins by two tries to one. The boys showed that this time there was nothing between the two teams.

Getting to the final and being presented with finalists' medals was richly deserved by a team of boys who always turn up for training and work hard week in week out.

Jake was presented with the 'player of the tournament' award.

Cowboys squad: Ioan Davies, David Harris, Robbie Hawkins, Harri Howkins, Oliver Jarmain, Aled Leitch, Charlie Locke, Jack Reilly, Harry Whittaker and Jake Williams.

JS

Official Government Environmental Test Data. Saab 9-3 Range. Fuel consumption mpg (litres/100km): Urban 15.2–40.9 (18.6–6.9), Extra-urban 36.2–67.3 (7.8–4.2), Combined 24.1–54.3 (11.7–5.2). CO_2 emissions 279–137g/km. Offer available to individuals for orders received between 5 April – 30 June 2011. Figures based on a non-maintenance contract hire package over 39 months and 10,000 miles per year (pxa). An advance payment equal to 6 monthly payments, followed by 30 regular monthly payments commencing Month Two. Rentals and excess charges are based on the current VAT rate. An excess mileage charge plus VAT will be applied for mileage in excess of 10,000 miles p.a. Excess charges also apply if the car is not serviced and maintained in accordance with manufacturer guidelines and returned to Saab Contract Hire in a condition commensurate with the BVRLA Fair Wear & Tear guidelines for its age and mileage. Package includes R.F.L. and Saab Assistance. Free metallic paint is only available in conjunction with Saab Contract Hire offer and applies to selected models only. Offer subject to availability and status. UK supplied vehicles only. For full specification, details, terms and conditions contact your local retailer. Guarantee and/or indemnity may be required. Applicants must be 18 or over. Details correct at time of publication and may vary, e.g. if list price changes. Personal contract hire by ALD Automotive Ltd., trading as Saab Contract Hire, Oakwood Park, Lodge Causeway, Fishponds, Bristol BS16 3JA. Offer and model shown is the M111 9-3 Linear SE 1.8t Manual Convertible at manufacturers recommended retail price of £17,364 OTR with optional metallic paint at £516 and 17" alloy wheels at £409.

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09 58 VAUXHALL Astra 1.8 16v (140ps) SRi 3-dr Sports Hatch. In technical grey with charcoal alpha cloth interior, air con, 17" alloy wheels, front fogs, ESP, immobiliser, only 26,850 miles **£9,995**

08 58 VAUXHALL Corsa 1.4i 16v Club Automatic 5-Dr Hatchback. In metro blue with cable charcoal interior, air con, radio/CD, body coloured bumpers, immobiliser, only 26,000 miles **£7,995**

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07 57 VAUXHALL Meriva 1.4 16v Breeze 5-dr MPV. In Black sapphire with charcoal interior, reversing sensors, CD, air con, privacy glass, only 23,580 miles **£5,995**

07 07 VAUXHALL Astra 1.6 16v (115ps) life 5-dr hatchback. In metallic silver with charcoal interior, air con, immobiliser, body coloured bumpers, anti-lock brakes, only 50,200 miles **£5,495**

05 55 VAUXHALL Astra 1.8 16v Club Automatic. In moonland grey, with charcoal interior, alloy wheels, air con, immobiliser, power steering, only 62,200 miles **£4,995**

SPORTS

09 59 HONDA Civic 1.4i-Vtec TypeS 3-dr hatchback in milano red with half suede interior, cd, traction control, immoiliser, alarm, alloy wheels, only 16,970 miles **£12,495**

09 09 MINI 1.6 (120bhp) Cooper (Pepper) Graphite In graphite grey with black interior, storage compartment package, 2 spoke leather steering wheel, air con, CD, only 6,570 miles **£13,495**

07 57 PEUGEOT 207 1.6HDi 110 sport 5-dr hatchback. In onyx black with black/grey interior, air con, cd, electric windows and mirrors, front fog, ISOFIX anchorage points, only 57,000 miles **£6,495**

06 56 MINI Cooper S 1.6 (175bhp) 3-dr hatchback. In In chilli red with black cloth/red leather ray combination upholstery, chrome line exterior, rear spoiler, radio/cd, panoramic roof, alloy wheels, air con, cruise control, only 47,450 miles..**£9,995**

06 56 VOLKSWAGEN Golf 1.4TSi (170ps) FT 5-dr in reflex silver metallic with siemere anthracite interior, climatic air con, front fogs, alloy wheels, cd, only 49,998 miles **£9,995**

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01 Y Volvo C70 2.4T 2-dr Automatic Coupe. In moondust with black leather interior, cruise control, climate control, cd, heated seats, only 68,250 miles **£3,995**

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10 10 FORD S-Max 2.0 TDCi (140ps) titanium 5-dr MPV. In moondust silver with ebony alcantara leather interior, quickclear screen, climate control, cruise control, phone prep, sports front bumper, one owner, only 8,290 miles . . .**£19,995**

09 59 FORD Mondeo 2.0 TDCi (140) Zetec 5-dr Hatchback in stardust silver with ebony interior, bluetooth phone prep, traction control system, air con, quick clear screen, cruise control, only 31,910 miles **£12,995**

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04 54 FORD Mondeo Ghia 5-Dr Hatchback. In platinum silver with ebony interior, 6-CD changer, automatic air con, alarm, immobiliser, alloy wheels, only 53,000 miles **£4,395**

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09 09 FORD Ka 1.2 Zetec 3-dr hatchback. In dive blue with grey interior, air con, quickclear screen, aux input, alloy wheels, cd, only 22,960 miles **£7,495**

09 09 CITROEN C1 1.4 HDi VTR 5-dr Hatchback in metallic blue with grey interior, radio/CD, ABS, power steering, elec front windows, £20 a year road tax, only 14,500 miles **£7,495**

08 58 CHEVROLET Matiz 1.0 SE+ 5-dr Hatchback. In mighty blue with grey interior, air con, central locking, CD, front electric windows, ISOFIX, only 26,560 miles **£3,995**

08 08 FORD KA Studio. In panther black with cascade interior, immobiliser, CD, drivers airbag, central locking, only 32,349 miles **£3,995**

07 57 RENAULT Clio 1.2 TCE Dynamique SX 3-dr hatchback. In eclipse black with sport dark interior, colour coded bumpers, cd, air con, alloy wheels, pivacy glass, electric windows, only 23,430 miles **£6,495**

06 06 RENAULT Clio 1.2 16v Campus Sport 3-dr Hatchback in mercury silver with extreme grey interior, air con, cd, colour coded bumpers, front fogs, alloy wheels, only 58,520 miles **£3,995**

05 55 TOYOTA Yaris 13 XVVT-i Colour Collection 3-dr hatchback in eclipse black with black/red interior, body coloured bumpers, power steering, alloy wheels, radio/cd, only 65,000 miles **£4,495**

05 55 RENAULT Clio 1.4 16v Expression 3-dr Hatchback. In platinum silver with grey interior, air con, CD, panoramic roof, only 49,600 miles **£4,495**

03 03 BMW 3 Series 3.0 330 Ci Convertible in Topaz Blue with Montana grey leather interior, 6-CD changer, heated seats, automatic air cn, traction control system, only 55,200 miles **£9,495**

05 55 RENAULT Clio 1.4 16v Expression 3-dr Hatchback. In platinum silver with grey interior, air con, CD, panoramic roof, only 49,600 miles.....**£4,495**

06 06 AUDI A4 2.0TDi S-line 4-dr saloon in brilliant red with mondial black interior, climate control, body coloured bumpers, radio/cd, service history, only 74,400 miles.....**£9,995**

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Pictured at the awards night are members of the successful Vale men's teams.

Great year for Vale Badminton Club

THE Vale Badminton Club scored an impressive treble at the Cardiff and District League awards night.

The club, which plays at Cowbridge Leisure Centre, picked up Men's Division 1, Division 3 and Division 4B titles, with two of their teams going unbeaten all season.

They also finished runners-up to Penarth A in the Mixed Division 1.

The Vale club chairman, Allan Evans, said: "It has been a terrific season for the club. The men's A team retained their title after a fierce battle with rivals Nomads and first pair Chris Rees and Rob John have been an outstanding combination all season.

"The A team has been hit by injuries and tournament commitments but it has been really pleasing to see players step up from the other sides to make a valuable contribution to the team's success.

"The B team were unbeaten in Division 3 under the guidance of Nathan Willcox and even when Nathan was injured for the second half of the season, the strength in depth of the club was sufficient to see us through to the title."

"The C team romped to success in Division 4B, barely dropping a rubber all season under the captaincy of Danny Teague."

Allan added: "What was equally pleasing at the awards night was that one of stalwart players, Glyn Morris, won the league's prestigious 'fair play' award, recognition by other clubs of his sporting nature both on and off the court."

Vale A: Chris Rees, Joe Morgan, Huw John, Rob John, Barry Granham, Darius Garnham.

Vale B: Martin Dix, Glyn Morris, Bryon Edwards, Nigel Braunton, Matt Obaid, Jack Farrington, Nathan Willcox.

Vale C: Len Field, Rob Calcaterra, Allan Evans, Danny Teague, Simon Farrington, Chris Rowbotham, Dave Skinner, Andrew Kyle.

In the ladies divisions, Penarth and Arches took the Division 1 and 2 titles respectively, while Nomads B won Men's Division 2 and Reardon Smith A the men's Division 4B title.

In the mixed leagues, Penarth A, Llantristant A, Llantrisant B, Reardon Smith A and Bridgend won Divisions one to five respectively.

FIRST XI TRIUMPH IN GAME OF LOW SCORES

ON Saturday, Cowbridge welcomed Morriston to the Athletic field on a day that threatened rain, but none fell – in games further west, not a ball was bowled.

Tom Merilaht suggested that a below par total was defended by Cowbridge Firsts with another solid display in the field that led to many shots of desperation from the visitors. It was a comment that sums up the match neatly.

Yet again, Cowbridge lost the toss and were put in to bat. They scored 152 runs in 45 overs, a disappointing total that was certainly below par. The visitors must have felt confident about reaching it without too much difficulty, but their confidence was misplaced. As on the previous Saturday, the exceptional performance in the field restricted the visitors and brought the victory.

Cowbridge's total owes a great deal to the emerging maturity of Sam Wood (40) and a battling 39 by Ali Bilal, who grows in confidence with every innings. When Sam was run out with the score at 126, Ali sensibly pushed the score along while others perished. He was last out for a priceless 39 runs.

Other contributions came from Tom Merilaht (24), Mike Lloyd (14) and Alex Kurobassa (19). A below par performance, but it was significant that more batsmen contributed to the total.

After tea, the visitors' opening batsmen strode purposefully to the crease intent upon finishing the game quickly, and it appeared that they would as they raced to 56 without loss in double quick time.

However, when Tom bowled the opening batsmen for 46 runs, and the next batsman went first ball, then panic set in.

Only their No 8, Sam Lovelock (17), put up any real resistance and eventually they were bowled out for 138 runs, the last man appropriately caught by Tom Merilaht, who had begun the collapse in the first place.

The outstanding feature of the victory certainly was the performance of the First XI in the field, which put the batsmen under so much pressure when they failed to score that they lost wickets while hitting out in desperation.

For the record, the Merilaht magic got him 5-39. Chris Cox chipped in with 3-18, and the constantly improving Alex Kurobassa 2-12.

This week, the First XI is away in sunny Skewen, while the Second XI will be at home.

Next Sunday, at The Athletic field, there will be a match between the Grammarians XI and a Cowbridge XI in memory of Peter Finucane, a lifelong lover of cricket.

In his youth, he played cricket to quite a high standard and later enjoyed watching his sons play cricket for Cowbridge. The club welcomes your support. Please come along and enjoy the afternoon.

DL

Mixed team is beaten in the Cup

ON Sunday, a Cowbridge XI, a mixture of Firsts, Seconds and Thirds, travelled to Penarth in the second round of the Welsh Cup.

Despite not possessing many first team bowlers, they gave a good account of themselves.

Cowbridge batted first, Tom Merilaht guessing correctly for the first time this season, and proceeded to score 219 in 45 overs.

After an aggressive start (99 in 16 overs), the momentum could not be maintained, but the batsmen were able to spend some much-needed time in the middle. Tom Merilaht (47), Mike Lloyd (17), Sam Wood (14), and Jonty Webb (15) pushed the score along nicely.

However, the game signalled a welcome return to form for Adam Wood (81) and a timely end to Andy Finucane's series of ducks as he contributed (13).

Penarth reached the runs with three overs to spare, but there were some fine performances from the Cowbridge bowlers. Harri Collier did not take a wicket, but in the face of some very aggressive batting he bowled a controlled spell of nine overs for only 33 runs.

James Thomas never gave up in the onslaught and returned figures of 2-55 and, lastly, Andy Finucane, in a devastating spell of three overs, took two wickets for three runs. It's disappointing that the skipper did not hand him the ball earlier.

DL

NEWS FROM COWBRIDGE BOWLS CLUB

RAIN STOPS PLAY!

BAD weather, for the first time this season, cancelled a game of bowls for Cowbridge ladies, in this case their match away to Bridgend Municipal.

In their only match, away to Barry Central in the league, they had a really good draw of 55-55.

The winning rink of captain May Jones with Lynda Wilson, Helena Snelling and Sue Flower, won well by 25-9.

Joan Bradley's rink of Mary Thomas, Judy Springett and Pauline McAllen only just lost 16-21, and Pat Davey's rink of Diane Purnell, Thelma Jones and Shirley Wilkinson lost 14-25.

The night before, the men had also been at Barry Central but after a day of rain, the green was very heavy and they went down very badly by 46-102.

Rink scores: Byron Richards 8-28; Dennis Snelling 16-21; Peter Launder 10-29 and Steven Dickens 12-24.

On the Saturday, the men played their last 'round robin' match at home to Ogmore Vale and won surprisingly easily by 145-30, which means they qualify for the first round proper of the Carruthers Shield, and can be drawn to play anywhere in Wales. Well done to the men.

Rink scores: John Trott, Bill Looker, Byron Richards and skip Roger Barwick won 46-8; Mansel Davey, Ron Woolford, John Jones and skip Dennis Snelling won 44-8; Terry Dunsworth, Brian Williams, Peter Launder and skip David Jones won 30-4; in the only close game, captain Norman Wilkinson's rink of Charles Sanders, Derek Woolley and Mike Bradley won 25-10.

The first round is on Saturday, June 25.

NJW

Pugh still leads boys order of merit

OTTO MAND (Dewstow) won the North Wales Boys Open at the weekend by a single stroke from Welsh Boys champion Oliver Baker (Cardiff) after rounds of 75, 73, 73 and 73 to collect 150 Hugh James points.

Mand's performance takes him into third place in the Hugh James Boys Order of Merit behind Jack Bush (Morlais Castle) and current leader, Rhys Pugh (Vale of Glamorgan).

Oliver Baker collects 90 Hugh James points and is in fourth place on the table, while the Celtic Manor's Ryan Haskell collects 60 points for his third place finish after rounds of 73, 75, 75 and 75.

Cowbridge Tennis Club's junior coaching day

Junior open day

IT was sunshine and smiles all round at Cowbridge Tennis Club's junior open day, with more 40 children, aged four to 15 taking part in the fun and games on Saturday.

There were coaching activities on all four courts, for first timers through to future Federers!

One of the highlights was the chance to take on Steve the coach, who had swapped his racket for a frying pan!

Junior organisers Caroline Summers and Colin Rees were thrilled with the number of children who took part and look forward to seeing everyone at the club on a regular basis.

Cowbridge has four junior boys and girls teams playing in the Aegon Summer Leagues and the 'Road To Wimbledon' club tournament will be getting under way soon for under-14s, with the chance to progress through to county finals and then Wimbledon.

Junior coaching is on Thursday and Friday evenings.

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